



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



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# THE FABIAN SOCIETY

What we stand for

Our priorities

People

Membership

Local Fabian societies

# THE FABIAN SOCIETY

The Fabian Society is an independent left-leaning think tank and a democratic membership society with over 6,000 members. We influence political and public thinking and provide a space for broad and open-minded debate. We believe that ideas matter, and that change is possible.

We conduct research and undertake major policy inquiries; we publish insight and opinion; we organise conferences and events; and we facilitate member debate and activism right across the UK.

As a think tank we have a reputation for high-quality, politically salient outputs that have a real impact on political and policy debate.

Our staff team in London, Manchester, and Edinburgh work with leading politicians and policy experts to develop and promote new ideas and to influence the climate of political opinion.

We are affiliated to the Labour Party and work very closely with Labour politicians, as well as influencing debate across the political spectrum.

We are a membership society and our members are at the heart of everything we do. People become Fabians because they agree with our political values and want to support our work, and to access our content and participate in our events and activities.

Our members set the society's direction through our democratic structures and they shape our programme as contributors and volunteers. Each year hundreds of activities are organised by and for our members by autonomous sections of the society – the Young Fabians, the Fabian Women's Network, the Scottish Fabians, the Welsh Fabians – and by Fabian networks and affiliated local Fabian societies.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

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

### **Fabianism**

The Fabian tradition informs how we think and what we do. Our commitment to Fabianism means we support the fight against inequality, the power of collective action and an internationalist outlook. We believe in social progress, evidence, expertise, rationality and long-termism. We advocate gradualist, reformist and democratic means in a journey towards radical ends.

As a society, we celebrate our historic achievements and champion the collectivist institutions built by Fabians. We promote Fabian arguments within politics today and support the political development of people who share our values.

### **Supporting the Labour party**

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

### **Pluralism and debate**

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

### **Equality and inclusion**

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



# OUR PRIORITIES

## **1. To support the Labour Government to deliver on their manifesto, and to transform the country for the better**

by generating evidenced and implementable policy ideas, and by supporting debate and discussion around policy and politics

## **2. To support Labour to win again at upcoming elections across the UK**

by helping the government to deliver effectively, enabling Labour to renew in office, and shaping a compelling policy agenda and political offer

## **3. To help to build a strong, united and diverse Labour movement**

by building bridges across the left and showcasing pluralist, respectful politics; improving equality, inclusion and diversity both within the society and the party; and supporting the development of leaders on the left

## **4. To strengthen the capabilities, activism and reach of the society**

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

## **Our programme examines 4 themes:**

### **POLITICS AND POWER**

electoral strategy, political reform, unequal power

### **STATE AND SOCIETY**

social challenges, the welfare state, tax and spend

### **ECONOMY AND WORK**

economic reform, the future of work

### **GREEN AND GLOBAL**

climate change, UK in the world

### **Accountability and transparency**

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

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

### **Independence**

The Fabian Society has editorial control over all our publications. Funding partners are invited to comment on draft outputs when they have relevant expertise but are not permitted to determine the contents of what we publish.

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



# PEOPLE

## Executive committee

### **Cllr Dr Sara Hyde**

Chair

### **Dr Sonia Adesara**

Vice-Chair

### **Bayo Alaba MP**

### **Joy Allen**

### **Liam Byrne MP**

### **Luke John Davies**

Vice-chair

### **Catherine Fookes MP**

### **Catriona Headley**

### **Mike Hedges MS**

Welsh Fabians

### **Jennifer Hemingway**

Local Government Representative

### **Rosanna Jackson**

Young Fabians

### **Sarina Kiayani**

### **Marianna Masters**

Fabian Women's Network

### **Michael Marra MSP**

Scottish Fabians

### **Rory O'Brien**

Staff Representative

### **Paul Richards**

Treasurer

### **James Prentice**

### **Francesca Reynolds**

Young Fabians

### **Sarah Russell MP**

### **Dr Jeevun Sandher MP**

### **Jimmy Sergi**

## Staff

### **Joe Dromey**

General secretary (from January 2025)

### **Andrew Harrop**

General secretary (until September 2024)

### **Emma Burnell**

Media consultant

### **Ben Cooper**

Research Manager

### **Hannah Kunzlik**

Membership and Digital Manager

### **Kate Murray**

Editorial Director

### **Phil Mutero**

Finance and operations consultant

### **Rory O'Brien**

External affairs director

### **Sasjka Otto**

Senior researcher

### **Luke Raikes**

Deputy general secretary

### **Eloise Sacares**

Senior Researcher

### **Katherine Sangster**

National Director, Scottish Fabians

### **Shehana Udat**

Membership officer

### **Miles Ward**

Membership and digital assistant

### **Iggy Wood**

Editorial assistant

### **Bradley Young**

Events and operations officer

**Scottish Fabians executive**

**Martin McCluskey MP**

Chair

**Catriona Munro**

Vice-chair

**Ian Murray MP**

**Daniel Johnson MSP**

**Sarah Boyack MSP**

**Alasdair Bealey**

**Maggie McTernan**

**Albie Mills**

**Lauren Rhodes**

**Marc Winsland**

**Welsh Fabians executive**

**Mike Hedges MS**

Chair

**Ross Whiting**

Secretary

**Andy Furlong**

**Emlyn Pratt**

**Joshua Phillips**

**Patience Bentu**

**Ben Romans**

**Abena Louisa St Bartholomew-**

**Brown Morgan**

**Fabian Women's Network executive**

**Marianna Masters**

Chair

**Kelly Grehan**

Co-Vice Chair

**Anya Sizer**

Co-Vice Chair

**Anna Abela**

**Lisa Raftery**

**Emily Bachelor**

**Caroline Adams**

**Lucia Das Neves**

**Dr Liz Hind**

**Natasa Pantelic**

**Susan Fajana-Thomas**

**Margaret Pinder**

**Frances Rehal**

**Jackie Taylor**

**Rachel Burgin**

**Rachael Adeosun**

**Jessica Leung**

**Rebecca Geach**

**Kamal Preet-Kaur**

## **Young Fabians**

### **Patrick Cook**

Co-Chair (until December 2024)

### **Francesca Reynolds**

Co-Chair

### **Rosanna Jackson**

Co-Chair (from December 2024)

### **Yusuf Amin**

Anticipations Editor

### **Connor Escudero**

Treasurer

### **Ed Selkirk Ford**

Vice-Chair (from April 2025)

### **Lucy Healey**

Women's officer

### **Jonathan Heywood**

Secretary

### **Minnat Allah Mohammed**

### **Eloise Sacares**

### **Maham Saleem**

Vice-Chair (stepped down March 2025)

### **Josie Sawtell**

### **Guy Tennant**

### **Jake Thomas**

### **Katie Heggs**

# MEMBERSHIP

## Individual

Standard	3,518
Student	1,088
Retired	1,003
Unemployed	384
Membership plus donation	270
	<b>6,263</b>

## Institutional

Trade Unions	7
Libraries	28
CLPs	9
Local Societies	11
	<b>55</b>

**6,318**  
**TOTAL MEMBERS ACROSS THE UK**

## LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES

### **BIRMINGHAM AND WEST MIDLANDS**

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### **READING AND DISTRICT**

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# REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Chair's report

General secretary's report

Young Fabians

Fabian Women's Network

Scottish Fabians

Welsh Fabians / Fabians Cymru

Local Fabian societies

Fabian policy groups

## CHAIR'S REPORT

BY CLLR DR SARA HYDE & DR SONIA ADESARA

It has been our privilege to serve as chairs of the Fabian Society over the past year. It has been an incredible year for the Fabians, and we are grateful to the hard-working staff team and Fabian members who have contributed.

What a joy to start the year with the election of a Labour Government! We're proud of the role Fabians played, with Fabian members across the country working hard to help deliver a Labour government. We were delighted to see a record number of 141 Fabian MPs elected to parliament, including six MPs from the FWN mentoring scheme.

After many long years in opposition, we have this incredible opportunity to translate Fabian ideas into government policy and make meaningful change for our communities. Indeed, following the election, many of our Fabian EC members were appointed as members of the government, so had to stand down from our executive. Fabians at the heart of government.

Since the government took up office, the Fabian team have been working hard with both politicians and civil servants to help deliver the government's missions. It is a credit to our staff team and members that the Fabian Society continues to be a leading organisation shaping government policy.

We thank our hard-working staff team, whose dedication to Fabianism consistently shines through. The research and editorial teams have been extremely busy, and we're proud of the quality of their outputs.



Nine research reports published on topics as varied as pensioner poverty, fair pay agreements in social care, tackling early years poverty and improving living standards. The society also published pamphlets from external authors, on issues ranging from buses as a driver of growth and gambling-related harms to how the government can halve, then eliminate VAWG.

The events team hosted more than a dozen events and five conferences, including some of our best-attended Labour Party conference programmes.

Our 2024 Labour Party conference programme was the biggest to date. We brought together a stellar line-up of then shadow secretaries of state, ministers, policy experts, and Fabian members exploring ideas and debating policy.

In the Autumn, we said farewell to Andrew Harrop, after 14 years as our general secretary. With exemplary leadership, he steered the society through turbulent times, and when he stepped down, he left a strong organisation and a fantastic legacy.



Luke Raikes (Deputy General Secretary) led the organisation as Interim General Secretary, whilst we undertook a recruitment process. Huge thanks to Luke for acting up into the role.

As 2025 commenced, we welcomed Joe Dromey as our new General Secretary, who began the role the same week as our New Year conference - great way to start! We were delighted to have Joe join us, following his time at Centre London Forward. He brings strong organisational leadership, razor-sharp research skills and excellent political acumen to lead the Fabians day to day and ensure our ongoing saliency with Labour in power nationally.

The New Year conference, held at the Guildhall, provided a thought-provoking start to the year, with an all-star line up, including a key note from our former Vice Chair, now Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting MP. We heard from a variety of Ministers, pollsters, experts and journalists about the challenges facing the country and how Fabian ideas could be instrumental in addressing them.

The events team have gone from strength to strength this year, developing the in-person events offer to include Mission Summits. They facilitated three summits, based on the government missions on health, opportunity and housing. We partnered with the TUC, City Lit and RICS, to deliver day-long gatherings hearing from ministers, select committee chairs and other senior politicians. The mission summits facilitated in depth debate and discussion, new connections and collaborations and are a brilliant addition to our membership offer.

We have seen Scottish Fabians excelling and are delighted that a number of our core members have been selected as MSP candidates ahead of the May 2026 Holyrood elections. We are planning our 2025 AGM in Cardiff in conjunction with the Welsh Fabians. Young Fabians have continued to thrive and grow under the exemplary leadership of Francesca Reynolds and Rosie Jackson. Whilst Fabian Women's Network celebrated 20 years of change-making and policy influencing - congratulations. Thank you to all those who give their time to make Young Fabians and Fabian Womens Network such vibrant member-led sections.

The first half of 2025 was a time of adjustment for the Society, still calibrating to the reality of Labour in power and under a new Fabian General Secretary. There were some fundraising and financial challenges, but grasping the nettle and acting swiftly means we finished the financial year on an upward trajectory. As well as Andrew Harrop leaving, Hannah Kunzlik and long-serving Fabian stalwart and editor, Kate Murray moved on: thank you so much for all you brought to the Fabians.

We began the new Fabian year with a bang in July, launching the Housing Centre, with accompanying research and with a full slate of events planned for Labour party conference. Although the path was not always smooth this year, we are delighted at where we finished, under robust, renewed leadership, in good financial shape and accelerating our ideas and influence into the heart of government. Thank you to the paid staff team and to the executive committee members for enabling this.

# GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

BY JOE DROMEY

As a long-standing Fabian member, it was an honour to take on the role of general secretary in January. I started on the same day Donald Trump took on his new job. Quite a lot has changed since then.

The Fabian Society has a long and proud history. We also have a crucial role to play in shaping the future of the left.

The Fabian Society helped shape Labour's manifesto in opposition. With Labour now back in government – where we belong – our role is different but no less important. We will provide new thinking on how the government can deliver on its missions, and we will seek to ensure that we keep true to our values. We will support debate and discussion on the left, so that Labour can renew in office. And we will support the development of future leaders on the left.

Labour's first year in office has been very challenging. But even a difficult day in government beats any day in opposition. Because it is only with Labour in government that – as a movement – we have the opportunity to change the country and improve peoples' lives.

We produced nine research reports across the year. My predecessor – Andrew Harrop's – report on pension tax relief generated a huge amount of coverage and discussion. The arts and creative industries unit – led by Alison Cole – launched their final report, setting out a compelling manifesto to broaden access to the arts.



Ben Cooper authored highly influential reports on the quality of rented accommodation and on how we can tackle child poverty with public consent. I led a project on how we can give care workers the pay rise they so clearly deserve. Luke Raikes led a major report on living standards, and Sasjka Otto wrote a fascinating report on pensioner poverty. We developed the Fabian Housing Centre, a major new long-term research programme which will focus on how the government can deliver on its ambitious housing commitments. This marks a conscious shift toward more long-term, programme based work, which will enable us to deliver yet more impact.

We were very sorry to lose Kate Murray – our long-standing editorial director – from the team for health related reasons earlier this year. But I'm hugely grateful for Iggy Wood for stepping up to lead our editorial work, ably supported by Miles Wood. We've produced four fantastic Fabian Reviews, on Labour's general election victory, the challenges ahead for the government, the state of the British right, and the turbulent political situation in Europe, as well as four pamphlets.

Our external affairs team – led by Rory O'Brien has done a fantastic job delivering some brilliant events. We delivered a vibrant Labour Party Conference programme in Liverpool. Our New Years Conference brought together over 500 members at Guildhall. And – for the first time in 15 long years – they heard not from shadow cabinet ministers, but from secretaries of state, putting Labour and Fabian values into action. We launched our Mission Summits – a new events programme that brings together policymakers, stakeholders and Fabian members to explore how can deliver on the government's priorities, with two held last year, another since, and more to come.

It has been a challenging year for our finances. The combination of the change in General Secretary, and the disruption cause by the snap election, meant that fundraising in the first half of the year was significantly below target. The team worked hard to recover the position, and we ended the year with a manageable deficit. I'm pleased to say that our finances have continued to improve since, and we are on track for a significant surplus this year. Delivering surpluses this year and the coming years will be vital to ensuring the Fabian Society is financially sustainable and resilient in the face of a turbulent and unpredictable political situation. I'd like to thank the dozens of partners who have supported our work; businesses and unions; trusts and foundations; charities and campaigners.

The Fabian Society helps to develop leaders on the left, and the work of Young Fabians and Fabian Women's Network is crucial to this. After a challenging year, it has been wonderful to see the Young Fabians go from strength to strength.

Francesca Reynolds and Rosannah Jackson have done an outstanding job in getting the Young Fabians up and running again, ably supported by the Exec, and I'm hugely grateful for their work. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Fabian Women's Network, with great events at Labour Party Conference and more fantastic work from the mentoring scheme. Massive thanks to Marianna Masters, the FWN exec and to Christine Megson.

I want to thank my predecessor Andrew Harrop for all he contributed to the Fabian Society over the last 14 years, and to Luke Raikes for his work as interim general secretary. I also want to thank the fantastic Fabian Society team. It has not been the easiest of years, with a great deal of change. But I have hugely valued their support, and I'm endlessly impressed by their passion, their talent and their dedication.

Thanks also to our fantastic exec, and to our exceptional chairs over the last year. Sonia did a great job overseeing the recruitment process (I would say that). And Sara has been an endless source of wise advice and steadfast support.

Most of all, I want to thank our 6,000 plus members across the country. We are not just a think tank – we're a membership movement. You provide the ideas that help drive us forward, and you help make all our work possible. Thank you.

# YOUNG FABIANS

BY FRANCESCA RAYNOLDS & ROSANNA JACKSON - YOUNG FABIANS CO-CHAIRS

## Constitution, Ideas and Engagement

At our 2024 AGM, we passed the new Young Fabians constitution, which is accessible on our website. This gave us a fresh start and allowed us to codify regional and diversity requirements into the Executive, ensuring that every committee which leads the Young Fabians will now fully representative of our members up and down the country.

Building on that momentum, our Anticipations pamphlet has continued as a quarterly publication exploring fresh ideas and international lessons. Our editions have covered the first 200 days of a Labour Government, lessons we can take from around the globe, net zero policies and more.

We also launched a policy pamphlet at Labour Party Conference 2025, A Manifesto for Britain on a Budget.

## Growing Our Networks and Membership

Our policy networks have launched this year, delivering high-quality events on issues from healthcare reform to technology and security. Highlights included a landmark discussion with a Ukrainian youth delegation on defence and cyber strategy, and a partnership event with IPPR exploring the future of health policy.

The newly relaunched Book Club has also become a regular space for thoughtful debate and political reflection.



We were also delighted to welcome new members to our Executive Committee, Jake Thomas, Guy Tennant, and Katie Hegg, whose expertise and enthusiasm have already enriched our work.

## Parliamentarians

We have been delighted to continue the tradition of the Young Fabians having a close relationship with Parliamentarians. We have been privileged to welcome (among others) Catherine West MP, Dawn Butler MP, the Baroness Harriet Harman, Anneliese Dodds MP, Seema Malhotra MP, Jeevun Sandher MP, Liam Byrne MP, Dr Simon Opher MP, Liam Conlon MP, Rachel Taylor MP, Maya Ellis MP, Nadia Whittome MP, Deirdre Costigan MP, Alice McDonald MP, to one or multiple of our events.

## Training, Fellowship and Inclusion

Developing the next generation of Labour thinkers and leaders remains central to our mission. Our online training series has provided members with practical skills and insights from experts across policy, government and campaigning.

We are also running the Policy Fellowship again for 2025/26, after the great success. The 2024/2025 research projects were made available online and covered a wide range of subjects: from sustainable food production in the UK and harnessing green hydrogen in Wales, to university funding and health inequalities in mental illness.

Crucially, we remain committed to ensuring the Young Fabians is an inclusive and welcoming space. Building on the work begun last year, we continue to embed a culture of openness, safety and diversity across our activities and governance.

### **Looking Ahead**

Our term will end shortly, with our AGM and elections this autumn, but the future of the Young Fabians is bright. We will be handing over to the new committee, after over a year and a half serving as the Executive Committee, and we're very excited to see what they get up to.

# FABIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK

BY MARIANNA MASTERS, FABIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK CHAIR

## 20 Years of Sisterhood, Solidarity and Service

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Fabian Women's Network (FWN), founded by Seema Malhotra MP. With over 2,000 members across the UK, FWN continues to be a powerful force for ensuring that diverse women's voices shape politics, public life and policymaking. Our anniversary gathering was a joyful celebration of our journey, featuring inspiring speeches from Dr Sara Hyde, Christine Megson, Seema Malhotra FRSA, Abena Oppong-Asare MP and Anneliese Dodds MP — all reinforcing our ethos of sisterhood, solidarity, and service.

FWN's flagship mentoring programme entered a new phase this year. After 14 years of supporting women to understand political systems, we now focus on enabling them to make change. With a Labour government in place, six former mentees are now MPs, and two are working in No. 10, and two others serve as special advisers to Cabinet members. The door to influencing policy is wide open and Fabian women are walking through it.

We've seen our members at the heart of transformative change. The recent vote to decriminalise women for ending their own pregnancies was a powerful example. Emily Batchelor from the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare has long worked with parliamentarians on this issue.



Georgie Nel, working for Tonia Antoniazzi MP, helped table the amendment. Catherine Fookes addressed Parliament to rally support, while Dr Sonia Adesara spoke to Sky News, urging compassion over prosecution. These women may not know each other but they're united in purpose, and winning change together.

At this year's Labour Party Annual Conference, FWN was publicly thanked for our contribution to the National Policy Forum. Our mentoring scheme continues to demonstrate how women's lived experience is fundamental to good policy. Ellie Reeves MP said: "The Fabian Women's Network remind us that there is a well-established link between women's poverty and child poverty, and both must be addressed in any serious strategy to tackle child poverty." We're proud that FWN Executive Member Dr Liz Hind led on this work. The child poverty strategy is due imminently, and FWN will host online briefings to explore how policy can address women's poverty. All Fabian members are welcome.

FWN also convened several events this year, including a powerful webinar on SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). Co-Vice Chair Anya Sizer—herself a parent of a child with complex needs—led the session with characteristic warmth and urgency. With the SEND white paper imminent and parental anxieties rising, Anya brought together a range of voices to explore both the crisis and the opportunity ahead. We heard from Adenike Ojo, playwright of “In Hiding,” which explores autism from a global majority perspective; Councillor Amy Allen, who lives with additional needs; and Dorothy, a young adult sharing her lived experience. The session was moving, urgent and emblematic of FWN’s approach: never shying away from difficult issues, but facing them head-on, collectively determined to shape a more inclusive future.

FWN remains committed to amplifying women’s voices, building solidarity, and shaping a fairer future—for our movement and our country.



## SCOTTISH FABIANS

BY KATHERINE SANGSTER, SCOTTISH FABIANS NATIONAL DIRECTOR

This year the Scottish Fabians welcomed two co-chairs, Cat Headley and Professor Chris Carter.

Professor Chris Carter is the chair of Strategy and Organisation at the University of Edinburgh Business School. He has been a member of the Fabian Society for many years, he serves on Scottish Labour's Economic Advisory Board and has run leadership courses for the Labour MSP group.

Cat is a Partner at Digby Brown LLP and graduated as one of the first cohorts of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership programme. She was a candidate in the Scottish Parliament elections in 2016. She is a regular political analyst and commentator, appearing on broadcast media.

With our new co-chairs in place, we have continued our work of preparing for Holyrood 2026 and what a Labour government would mean for Scotland.

At UK conference we ran two events looking at this electoral challenge. Anas Sarwar was in conversation with Andrew Marr where he set out his vision for Scotland and the battleground for 2026. He spoke about two failed decades under the SNP, where Scotland and Scotland's ambition has been let down. We also held a panel event with MSP Sarah Boyack and newly elected MPs on the lessons learnt from the 2024 General Election campaign.



Our National Director, Katherine Sangster joined four brand new MPs in conversation about the journey from campaign to commons and the challenges of a new MPs inbox!

In February we were delighted to host our new General Secretary at Scottish Labour conference where he met with the MSP group and our new chairs. We hosted a panel conversation with Baroness Margaret Curran, Baroness Wendy Alexander, Martin McCluskey MP, and Michael Shanks MP on Labour first year of government and the transition from campaigning to delivery.

This Summer featured the very first "Scottish" edition of the Fabian Review which looked ahead to 2026 featuring Michael Shanks MP, Roz Foyer, Paul O'Kane MSP, and Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP. Chris Carter joined Anas Sarwar on the campaign trail in Hamilton where Scottish Labour defied the odds and saw off the SNP and Reform. In this interview, Anas expanded on the themes he discussed at conference.

The Scottish Fabians continue to empower others and help remove the barriers to power. The Veronica McTernan Fund sends two Scottish women on the Fabian Women mentoring programme and we welcomed Cohort 13 of the Fabian Women's Mentoring Programme to the Scottish Parliament. Thank you to Sarah Boyack MSP and Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP for being so generous with their time. This event is now a regular event in the Fabian Women's Mentoring programme. We are looking forward to meeting the new mentees when they come to Edinburgh in November.

The next six months will be critical to the future of Scotland, and the Scottish Fabians have a critical role to play both campaigning for change and preparing for power. In the words of Anas Sarwar in the Fabian Review "we are at a tipping point regarding whether we can build a fairer, better Scotland or whether we're going to continue to go backwards."

# WELSH FABIANS | FABIANS CYMRU

BY MIKE HEDGES MS, FABIANS CYMRU CHAIR

The Welsh Fabians had their AGM in June. The Welsh Fabian blog has produced at least one article each month, creating a total of twenty-four articles across the year. This has covered a wide variety of topics as indicated below:



- Infrastructure and the Swansea and West Wales metro
- The economy and taxation
- Local Government funding and the funding formula for Wales
- Renewable energy
- Sexual harassment
- Supporting the deaf community
- The fourth industrial revolution
- Cooperatives, social enterprises and mutuals
- Education and 21st century schools
- The views of Welsh voters

Next year Welsh Labour faces a challenging set of elections. Catherine Fookes MP wrote about the elections in Fabian Review recently. We are looking forward to hosting the Fabian Society's Annual General Meeting in Cardiff in November, alongside an event – Delivering for Wales – which will be addressed by the First Minister.

Authors for the blog included Mike Hedges MS, Jenny Rathbone MS, Lee Walters, Joyce Watson MS, Carolyn Thomas MS, Hannah Bleddyn MS, Hefin David MS, and Buffy Williams MS. The articles are available on the Welsh Fabian website.

## LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES

BY LUKE JOHN DAVIES, LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES REPRESENTATIVE

Conditions for the local societies has remained tough, with many still recovering from the pandemic. Nevertheless, many remain active and visible throughout the country, offering programmes of meaningful debate and discussion. Discussions around new societies paused for the General Elections but then began to move forward again in the last year, with Cambridge Fabians likely to be up and running soon.

One particular highlight of the local societies this year was the Birmingham and West Midlands Fabians hosting the highest attended fringe at West Midlands Labour Regional Conference for the second year running. This time, the discussion revolved around what lessons Keir Starmer could learn from the Wilson Government. Meanwhile, Havering Fabians hosted an event on the Grenfell Tower disaster, and other local groups such as York Fabians and Central London Fabians ran regular meetings to discuss current affairs.

Our new general secretary Joe Dromey has spoken at a number of local society meetings, including Havering, Tunbridge Wells and Haringey. He and the Fabian Society team are very keen to join local society meetings whenever possible.

If you are interested in getting involved with a local society near to you then please check the website for contact information, or if there isn't one near you consider getting involved and founding one yourself!



You can find meeting rooms in local cafes or libraries and the national society can provide you with a model constitution and support from the local societies representative to get you started.

On a personal note, I will be standing down at this AGM having reached the term limit for the Fabians EC. I wish whoever takes over from me every success in growing the local societies, a key route to the Fabians remaining relevant to the country at large outside of the Westminster bubble.

## FABIAN POLICY GROUPS

The Education Policy Group continues to meet regularly and to be very active. The group held an event in the House of Commons in November 2024, entitled 'Aims and values of the curriculum'. The group meets regularly, and produces a quarterly Fabian Education Review.

The other policy groups have been less active recently. We will be seeking to increase support for policy groups in the coming year, so that we can get more up and running again.

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

Publications

Jenny Jeger Prize

Events

## PUBLICATIONS

July 2024

### **Fabian Review: New Dawn**

#### **Going up a gear: Raising productivity by powering up investment, work and institutions**

Luke Raikes

August 2024

#### **Brick by Brick: Why we must act now to remake our housing market**

Simon Graham

#### **Expensive and Unequal: The case for reforming pension tax relief**

Andrew Harrop

#### **Employment status: options for reform**

Luke Raikes

September 2024

#### **Power and Prosperity: How a radical Labour government can transform Britain**

Stephen Beer & Patrick Diamond

### **Fabian Review: Bloom or Bust**

#### **Arts for Us All: Putting culture and creativity at the heart of national renewal**

Alison Cole, Nathan Lloyd & Flora Dodd

December 2024

### **Fabian Review: Eyes to the Right**

January 2025

#### **Home Comforts: A plan to eradicate Englands poor-quality rented housing**

Ben Cooper

#### **Mature Decisions: The role of social security in alleviating pensioner poverty**

Sasjkia Otto

April 2025

### **Fabian Review: Continental Drift**

#### **In the Fast Lane: How better buses can kickstart growth**

Alex Mayer MP

#### **Social Democracy Now: Why communitarianism provides the roadmap the left needs today**

Ed Wallis

May 2025

#### **Seizing the Opportunity: The fair pay agreement in social care**

Joe Dromey & Ben Cooper

#### **First Steps? An ambitious strategy to tackle early-years poverty with public consent**

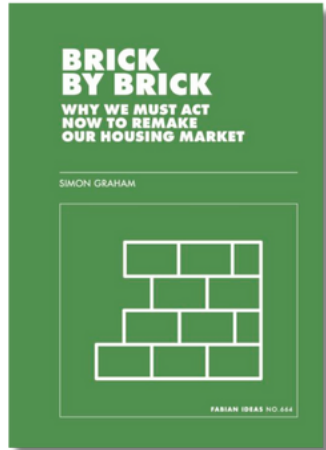
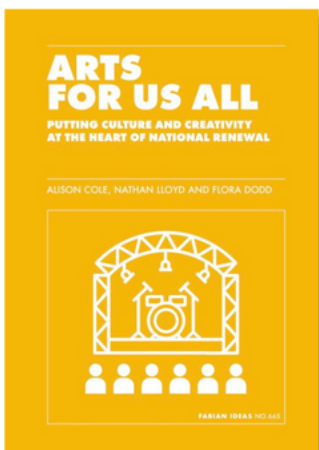
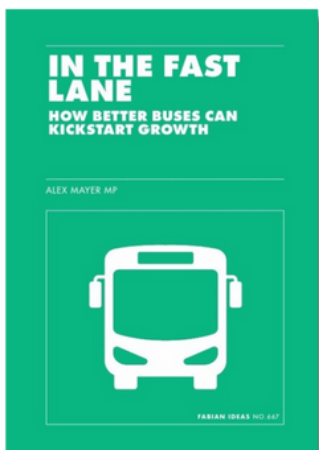
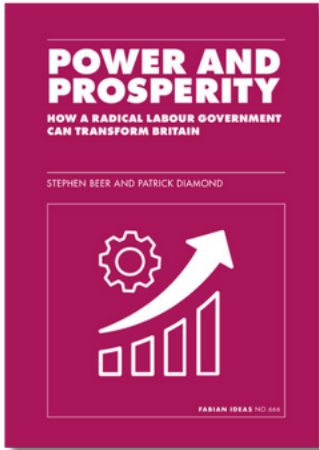
Ben Cooper

June 2025

#### **Better off: A plan to improve living standards in one parliament**

Luke Raikes, Andrew Harrop, Sasjkia Otto  
Eloise Sacares





## THE JENNY JEGER PRIZE

The Jenny Jeger prize for writing was established to commemorate Jenny Jeger, chair of the society in 1984. The winners for 2024-25 and 2023-24 were:

### **2024-25**

#### **Full-length report**

##### **Stephen Beer and Patrick Diamond**

Power and Prosperity: How a radical Labour government can transform Britain

#### **Shorter writing**

##### **Kate Murray**

Public Figures, a Q&A with Antony Gormley  
Featured in Fabian Review Vol 136, No.2  
(Summer 2024)

#### **Younger writer**

##### **Otto Barrow**

Towards a Socialist Singapore-on-Thames:  
What the Singapore model can teach a  
Labour Britain  
Featured in Antics Autumn 2024

### **2023-24**

#### **Full-length report**

##### **Simon Graham**

Brick by Brick: Why we must act now to  
remake our housing market

#### **Shorter writing**

##### **Ben Cooper**

Closing the Gap  
Featured in Fabian Review Vol 135, No.2  
(Summer 2023)

#### **Younger writer**

##### **Tommy Gale**

A Cautionary Tale  
Featured in Fabian Review Vol 135, No.2  
(Summer 2023)

## EVENTS

September 2024

### **Employment Status: Options for reform**

with Andrew Pakes MP

### **Labour Party Conference**

with Liz Kendall MP, Lisa Nandy MP, Wes Streeting MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP, Anas Sarwar MSP, Mayor Andy Burnham, Mayor Steve Rotheram, Matthew Pennycook MP, Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, Steven Doughty MP, Sir Chris Bryant MP, Lord James Timpson, Baroness Ayesha Hazarika, Luke Pollard MP, Jim McMahon MP, Michael Shanks MP, Dame Meg Hillier MP, Liam Byrne MP, Kim Leadbeater MP, Carolyn Harris MP, Catherine Fookes MP, Dr Jeevun Sandher MP, Chris Murray MP, Jessica Toale MP, Mike Reader MP, Polly Billington MP, Blair McDougall MP, Maya Ellis MP, Sureena Brackenridge MP, Matthew Patrick MP, Jodie Gosling MP, Seb Dance, Mete Coban, Sarah Murphy MS, Kate Green, Sarah Boyack MSP

October 2024

### **Home Improvements, Building an Integrated Strategy for UK Housing**

with Mike Reader MP

### **Better Supporting Families, Cross-Party Consensus or Divergence?**

with Sharon Hodgson MP and Baroness Ruth Lister

November 2024

### **Social Security Roundtable**

with Chris Murray MP and David Pinto-Duschinsky MP

January 2025

### **New Year Conference**

with Steve Reed MP, Wes Streeting MP, Anneliese Dodds MP, Liam Byrne MP, Dame Meg Hillier MP, Sarah Jone MP, Seema Malhotra MP, Dr Jeevun Sandher MP, Dame Emily Thornberry MP, Yuan Yang MP, Sem Moema AM, Mete Coban; Tom Copley

### **Five years on – Can we make Brexit work?**

with Stella Creasy MP

April 2025

### **Seizing the Opportunity, A Fair Pay Agreement in Adult Social Care**

### **Practical Solutions for Healthy and Inclusive Work**

May 2025

### **Labour's Plan for Regional Growth**

with Liam Byrne MP

### **Health and Care Mission Summit**

with Stephen Kinnock MP, Dr Peter Prinsley MP, Dr Anna Dixon MP, Danny Beales MP, Steve Yemm MP, Laura Kyrke-Smith MP, Mete Coban, Christina McAnea

June 2025

### **Opportunity Mission Summit**

with Alison McGovern MP, Helen Hayes MP, Catherine McKinnell MP, Peter Swallow MP, Stephen Morgan MP, Baroness Jacqui Smith, Baroness Mary Bousted, Baroness Ruth Lister





# FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's report

Auditor's statement

Balance sheet

Income and expenditure

Financial transparency

Membership income

# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY PAUL RICHARDS

I am pleased to present my annual report as honorary treasurer of the Fabian Society. As ever, we must all be grateful to the Fabian staff team, and especially Phil Mutero, for all their hard work in maintaining sound finances and generating income. I am pleased that our new General Secretary's first months have been marked by close attention to the Society's financial wellbeing, and the pressing need to attract income from a diversity of sources.

Our greatest strength derives, not only from sponsorship or donations (welcome though these are). Our strength derives from our membership as a socialist society. Here, I must sound an alarm. Our membership figures are not where we would want them to be, and this puts pressure on our income. We cannot rely on a diminishing number of Fabian members to support the high levels of activity and influence. I certainly do not want to see membership fees increase to the point where people chose not to renew their membership.

The answer is of course to recruit new members, and to cajole those who have lapsed to rejoin. I would also like to see a revival of the local societies, where Fabians can enjoy each other's company and engage in our discussions and deliberations without the need to travel too far. I am pleased to see the revival of the Young Fabians as a source of vitality and a pipeline for the next generation of Fabianism. A renaissance of Fabian membership is a necessary task, not only for financial reasons, but also for political ones.



We are living through the most tumultuous times since I joined the Society in the 1980s. So many of the assumptions that underpinned our Fabianism are being challenged, including notions of parliamentary democracy, the nature of work, the role of technology, and how society functions. That means that the Fabian Society, like the party we helped to found, has no automatic right to exist; we are only as good as our ability to navigate the new political topography. The political ferment makes the case even more strongly for building our membership, diversifying our sources of ethical income, spending every penny wisely, and most importantly building strong financial reserves so we can weather whatever storms we face.

## AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

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

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Fabian Society (the 'Society') for the year ended 30 June 2025 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 2025 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;

### Basis for opinion

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



# BALANCE SHEET

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		1,176,091		1,165,002
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors and Prepayments	186,876		157,749	
Bank and Cash	80,055		122,394	
	<b>266,931</b>		<b>280,143</b>	
<b>CREDITORS-AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>				
Creditors and Accruals	(175,691)		(110,953)	
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>		91,240		169,190
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		1,267,331		1,334,192
<b>CREDITORS-AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR</b>		(4,407))		(14,796)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,262,924</b>		<b>1,319,396</b>
General Fund		1,228,725		1,292,085
Restricted Funds		34,199		27,311
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>1,262,924</b>		<b>1,319,396</b>

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
INCOME	£	£
Individual Members	337,090	344,345
Institutional Affiliations and Subscriptions	4,735	3,965
Donations and Legacies	164,719	141,949
Publication Sales	600	2,127
Conference and Events	287,850	327,763
Publication Sponsorships and Advertisements	47,454	23,200
Research Projects	342,337	449,982
Rents	22,468	17,513
Bank Interest, Royalties and Miscellaneous	3,202	199
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,210,455</b>	<b>1,311,043</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Research Projects	67,205	74,680
Staff Costs	782,560	716,328
Printing and Distribution	106,903	114,708
Conference and Events	99,533	98,163
Promotion	8,385	12,214
Affiliation Fees	6,463	6,385
Postage, Phone and Fax	1,868	2,545
Depreciation	20,926	17,042
Office Costs	15,866	18,916
Stationery and Copying	7,025	5,179
Legal and Professional	36,439	38,090
Irrecoverable VAT	5,764	5,122
Premises Costs	71,630	79,409
Bad Debts	-	4,220
Information Systems	36,360	31,801
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,266,927</b>	<b>1,224,802</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) Before Tax and Transfers</b>	<b>(56,472)</b>	<b>86,241</b>
Transfers from Reserves	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before taxation	(56,472)	86,241
Corporation Tax	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(56,472)</b>	<b>86,241</b>

## FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Income associated with specific research, editorial and events projects totalled £677,641 in 2024/25 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 for 2024/25 is provided below.

FUNDER	AMOUNT £	CONFIRMED FUNDING
Abrdn	60,520	Living standards action plan
AgeUK	10,625	Labour Party Conference
Association of British Insurers	12,500	Labour Party Conference
Better World Foundation	4,900	International development pamphlet
Byline Times	2,500	Press and Power
Centre for Ageing Better	6,000	Housing in an ageing society
CIPD	5,600	Growth and skills levy
CIPD	5,600	Opportunity Mission Summit
Coalition to End Gambling Ads	10,000	Public health approach to gambling harms pamphlet
Coalition to End Gambling Ads	5,000	Health and Care Mission Summit
CPRE	10,500	Rural Pamphlet
CPRE	6,400	Housing Mission Summit
Dartmouth Street Trust	19,600	Make work pay programme
Early Education and Childcare Coalition	2,000	Opportunity Mission Summit
East Midlands Freeport	7,500	Labour's plan for growth
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung	7,250	Labour Party Conference
Guinness	10,000	Tackling non-decent homes
Hallam Land Management	12,500	Labour Party Conference
HCL	7,500	NHS Digitisation
HC-One	8,000	Health and Care Mission Summit
Home Group	10,000	Tackling non-decent homes
ICAEW	12,500	Labour Party Conference
ICAEW	12,500	New Year Conference
Joe Hage	144,537	Arts and creative industries policy unit
Lloyds Banking Group	20,000	Labour Party Conference
Local Government Information Unit	10,625	Labour Party Conference
Maximus	12,500	Labour Party Conference
Meta	12,500	Labour Party Conference
PLSA	20,000	Pensioner Poverty
PLSA	15,000	Labour Party Conference
Press Justice Project	7,500	Press and Power
Prospect/Bectu & Community	18,000	Self-employment
RUSI	425	Labour Party Conference
Save the Children	2,800	International development pamphlet

FUNDER	AMOUNT £	CONFIRMED FUNDING
Save the Children & Bright Blue	12,500	Cross-party social security dialogue
The Trussell Trust	4,000	Opportunity Mission Summit
Thrive	12,750	Labour Party Conference
Trust for London	20,000	Early Years Poverty
UNICEF	12,500	Labour Party Conference
Unison	20,000	Fair pay agreement in social care
Unison	4,000	Health and Care Summit
Unison	19,035	Health at work
Unison	7,500	Labour Party Conference
University of Liverpool	12,500	Labour Party Conference
Worldline	12,500	Labour Party Conference
Yorkshire Building Society	8,625	Housing and mortgage
Youth Futures Foundation	10,000	Opportunity Mission Summit
Youth Futures Foundation	16,000	Growth and Skills Levy

## **MEMBERSHIP INCOME**

Our membership income comes from subscriptions and supplementary donations from members, associate members, affiliates and institutional subscribers. In 2024/25 this amounted to £341,825. As of 30 June 2024, we had 6,318 members, affiliates and subscribers.

The Fabian Society would like to thank all of its members and donors who make our work possible.

**FABIAN**  
SOCIETY

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