



Spring Conference 2016

Conference Announcements

Friday, 05 February to Sunday, 07 February 2016

Holiday Inn, Cardiff City Centre & School of Management, Cardiff Metropolitan University



**Saturday Night
is Social Night!**

Callaghan's Bar: Holiday Inn
Cardiff Centre
(enter via the Hotel Reception)

£15

7.00pm
(after the ERS Reception)



Including chilli and a pint
(vegetarian and soft drink alternative available)

**GOT YOUR
TICKET YET?**

(see page 6)

Welcome to Conference

Thank you for coming this weekend. I can't believe that Spring Conference is here already - it doesn't seem two minutes since we were here for the last one let alone Swansea in November. I hope that you will find this document useful, it is intended as a companion to *The Conference Guide*.

Inside this document you will find details of the amendments to the motions which have been accepted for debate by the Conference Committee, and also details additional exhibitors who have booked since *The Guide* went to print. There is also an additional Fringe Meeting and a minor change to another..

We have a record number of exhibition stands this weekend so please make sure you speak to our exhibitors and make them feel welcome. You can't miss them, you need to go through the exhibition to get your fix of tea and coffee!

As always, the Conference Committee welcomes your feedback and suggestions about our Conferences. Please email any comments or suggestions you may have to me at Conference@WelshLibDems.org.uk.

I hope you have a very productive and most of all enjoyable Conference.



Jacqui Sullivan

Chair, Welsh Liberal Democrat Conference Committee

PS Have you bought your tickets for the Social Event on the Saturday evening? Tickets are available from the Registration Desk.

6-7pm, Saturday 6 Feb, Holiday Inn, Castle Street, Cardiff, CF10 1XD

Saturday Night Drinks Reception

RALLY FOR REFORM

Welsh Liberal Democrat Conference 2016

Baroness Jenny Randerson
Aled Roberts AM

Electoral
 Reform
 Society
Cymru

Amendments to Conference Motions

PM2: Winning in Wales

Amendment 1

Submitted by the National Policy Committee

Delete all and replace with:

Conference looks forward to this year's elections to the National Assembly, recognising the influential role played by our AMs and determined to win seats across Wales.

Conference Believes that:

1. Welsh Liberal Democrats have the deepest roots of any Welsh political party, having been in the front line of progressive and radical reform for over 150 years.
2. Seventeen years of a Welsh Labour Government has not delivered prosperity for Wales' individuals and communities and has left our healthcare, education and other public services in drastic need of support and reform.
3. Wales can only reach its potential by making the most of Wales' strengths such as our culture, our resources, and most of all, our people, and by good governance by a government that values transparency and scrutiny.
4. At a time of tight budgets, Wales needs innovative thinking to improve public services to meet the needs of patients, pupils and parents and achieve social justice.
5. Wales must take advantage of being a relatively small country to build stronger connections between all the elements in its public and private sectors, such as by better connecting industry with higher and further education, health with social care, bus and rail transport with economic potential and people's daily needs.
6. We must redouble our efforts to get the basics right, reinvigorate our economy, and make sure that devolution delivers for individuals and local communities in all corners of Wales.
7. The main challenges facing the next Welsh Government will be:
 - a. Building effective and people-centred public services such as the NHS during budget pressures,
 - b. Growing our economy for the benefit of all, and
 - c. Giving everyone in society the opportunity to get on in life, for themselves and their families.

Conference resolves to present the Welsh electorate with a vision to revitalise Wales with policies such as:

1. Strengthening our economy, closing the productivity gap, and encouraging entrepreneurship and growth by:
 - a. Delivering a balanced, integrated, export-led economic strategy, taking advantage of our links outside Wales, particularly to the EU;
 - b. Establishing a Welsh Development bank to bring together finance and support for small businesses seeking to grow; developing export markets for Welsh businesses; and drawing in funding for major infrastructure projects
 - c. Building a highly skilled modern workforce by supporting in-work training and retargeting Jobs Growth Wales to create tens of thousands of new apprenticeship places;
 - d. Cutting burdensome red tape to enable businesses to thrive.
 - e. Stimulating a vibrant and diverse high street through a national learning network to share best practice, tackling empty properties and making town centres more accessible.

Amendments to Conference Motions

- f. Improving mobile coverage, including 4G, and digital inclusion across Wales;
 - g. Bolstering efficient and accessible public transport and infrastructure across Wales.
 - h. Devolving more powers to local areas such as City Regions.
2. Delivering a modern and effective tax system by:
 - a. Cutting taxes for the many, not the few, by reducing the 20p rate to 19p when new powers make this possible and when public expenditure is increasing.
 - b. Cutting council tax when the owner improves a property's energy efficiency
 - c. Reviewing Business Rates to help companies by removing rates on plant and machinery; establishing 50% relief on business rates bills for new occupants of retail premises that have been empty for a year or more; and devolving business rates to local authorities.
 3. Ensuring the NHS is effective and sustainable by:
 - a. Centring care on dignity, compassion and choice for individuals in a clean, safe and well-managed environment.
 - b. Ensuring safe levels of nurse staffing across the Welsh NHS;
 - c. Guaranteeing patients the best treatment, in the right place, at the right time, including improving access to GPs;
 - d. Ending mental health discrimination and improving support for people with additional learning needs.
 - e. Improving access to medicines.
 - f. Ensuring that NHS oversight is independent of Government,
 - g. Establishing an NHS Commission to set out a long-term future for our health and social care.
 4. Developing an education system which empowers children and students and helps them flourish throughout life by:
 - a. Creating a high quality and affordable early years education and childcare system that secures the best outcomes for children and their families;
 - b. Reducing infant class sizes to 25;
 - c. Providing flexibility and freedom for teachers to lead, and granting high performing schools extra flexibility and powers;
 - d. Increasing funding through the Welsh Pupil Premium;
 - e. Ensuring fair access to further and higher education.
 5. Tackling the housing crisis and ensuring everyone has access to good quality housing at an affordable price by:
 - a. Doubling the number of affordable homes built over the next five years to 20,000 by 2021;
 - b. Putting in place schemes to help people get on the housing ladder; and
 - c. Protecting and empowering tenants, especially those who are vulnerable.
 6. Protecting our natural environment and enhancing our renewable energy resources by
 - a. Introducing targets for 100% of electricity demand to be met from renewable sources by 2025 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
 - b. Supporting community energy projects
 - c. Tackling flooding and restoring our biodiversity.

Amendments to Conference Motions

7. Reforming the way we do politics, devolving power to the lowest practical level, and ensuring accountability at all levels by:
 - a. Empowering communities by reinvigorating local democracy
 - b. Protecting vital community assets through a Community Right to Bid.
 - c. Restoring trust in politics by enabling constituents to recall their AMs, introducing independent oversight of the Ministerial Code, and opposing rises in AM pay out of line with the public sector.
 - d. Making elections fairer and introducing votes at 16; and
 - e. Campaigning for more powers for Wales and a fair devolution settlement.
8. Supporting rural communities by:
 - a. Promoting affordable rural housing;
 - b. Improving access to healthcare, especially in Mid Wales, and focusing recruitment on rural GP surgeries;
 - c. Maintaining local banking and other community facilities;
 - d. Ensuring stability in the farming industry by reducing bureaucracy; supporting young farmers, and introducing a dedicated scheme for Areas of Natural Constraint.
 - e. Connecting rural Wales by improving transport links and modernising the digital infrastructure.
9. Working to remove barriers so everybody can get ahead in life, and leading efforts to promote equality for all of Wales' diverse communities.
10. Ensuring everyone has the right to speak Welsh in their daily life and can access good quality Welsh education and public services.
11. Promoting a vision of a self-confident nation within the United Kingdom and Europe, united in making the most of its human and material resources, seeking export opportunities and investment, providing effective services for its people and compassionate as a Nation of Sanctuary helping those from elsewhere who are in need.

PM6: Let's Talk About Sex

Amendment 1

IR Cymru

In Conference Calls for 6, insert:

- d. Improving access to affordable emergency contraception

Fringe Meeting Changes

Saturday: 12:30 to 13:30

Harvard 2:

(2nd Floor)



Cardiff University

& the Welsh Local Government Association

Local Government in Wales: where next?

Dr James Downe, Director, Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff Business School outlines the problems with the local government reorganisation process and raises questions about how local government could work in the future.

Chaired by Rodney Berman OBE with contributions from Peter Black AM, and Tim Peppin, Director, WLGA.

Lunch provided.



Saturday: 15:00 to 16:00

Canton:

(Ground Floor)



OXFAM

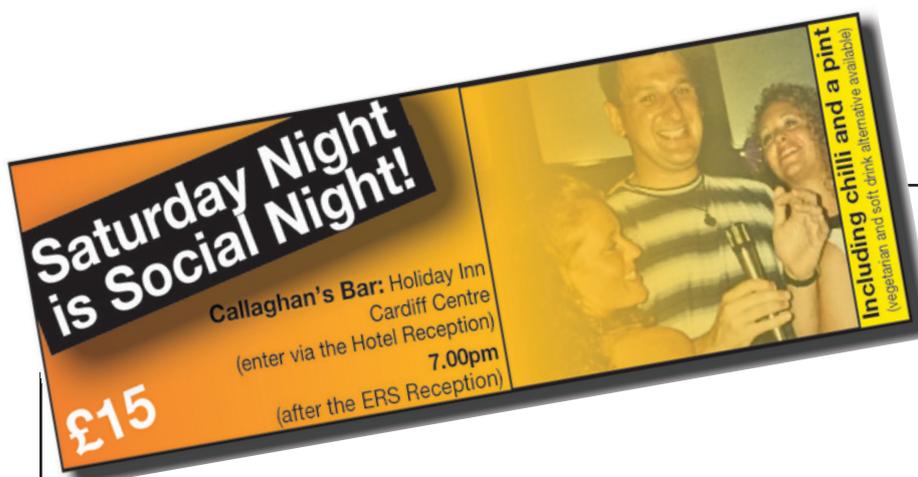
OXFAM Cymru

Should Wales become a Nation of Sanctuary?

Globally there are now more refugees than there were at the end of World War Two.

Join Oxfam Cymru and Liberal Democrat speakers to discuss the crisis and how Wales should respond.

Light refreshments available.



Quiz

Karaoke

Hot Food & a Drink

Callaghan's Bar, Holiday Inn Cardiff Centre is the place to be for the opportunity to meet up with your friends old and new in an informal setting (immediately after the Electoral Reform Society Reception).

Book your ticket now from the Conference Registration Desk!

New Exhibitors

Age Cymru



Age Cymru wants an age friendly Wales in which older people have the same respect, rights, opportunities and access to services as other age groups. Visit our exhibition stand to learn more about an age friendly Wales and our 2016 Assembly election manifesto.

Carers Trust Wales



Carers Trust Wales works to improve support, services and recognition for anyone living with the challenges of caring, **unpaid**, for a family member or friend.

Our vision is of a world where the role and contribution of **unpaid** carers is recognised and they have access to the trusted quality support and services they need to live their own lives.

Citizens Advice in Wales



Every year across England and Wales millions of people turn to us. This gives us a unique insight into their needs and concerns. We use this knowledge to campaign on big issues, both locally and nationally.

RSPB



yn rhoi
cartref i
fyd natur

giving
nature
a home

The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home. Together with our partners, we protect threatened birds and wildlife so our towns, coast and countryside will teem with life once again. We also play a leading role in a worldwide partnership of nature conservation organisations.

WWF Cymru



WWF Cymru is the Welsh arm of the world's leading environmental organisation.

Come to our stand to support our Earth Hour campaign ahead of the global lights out on 19 March, and find out more about our asks of the next Welsh Government.

Other Events



Calling all members!

There will be a brief meeting for IR Cymru members immediately after the close of Conference on **SUNDAY** in the **ADAMSDOWN ROOM** on the ground floor.

Welsh Liberal Democrats
Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru



Local Party Officers

Deputy President, **MARK COLE**, invites all Local Party Officers who are at Conference to a short meeting after the close of the Conference on **SUNDAY** in the **CANTON ROOM** on the ground floor.

This is your opportunity to keep informed and also give your feedback.

Need Funds and Don't Know Where to Start? Started and Stalled on Fundraising?

Sue Evans, Fundraising Manager from LDHQ is on hand this weekend to help. Need a quick chat or a review of where you're at? Sue can help you find new donors, refresh your appeals or raise your game

Book your 1-2-1 appointment with Sue at the Registration Desk.

