

FABIAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT
2019/2020

The future of the left since 1884

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ABOUT THE FABIAN SOCIETY



The Fabian Society is an independent left-leaning think tank and a democratic membership society with around 8,000 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 more than 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 take 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 to one position. 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 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 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. Our editorial output is not shaped or controlled by the party in any way.

40+
affiliated
Fabian Societies



People

Executive committee

Ivana Bartoletti (chair), Adam Allnutt, Sanchia Alasia, Stephen Bradley, Thom Brooks (from April 2020), Emily Brothers, Luke John Davies, Anneliese Dodds MP, Martin Edobor (vice-chair), Tom Gardiner, Kate Green MP, Sara Hyde, Lord Kennedy (treasurer), Seema Malhotra MP, Catriona Munro (vice-chair), Rory Palmer, Keir Starmer MP (resigned April 2020), Wes Streeting MP, Helen Taylor.

Fabian Society vice-presidents

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

Staff 2019-20

Andrew Harrop (general secretary), Kate Murray (editorial director), Luke Raikes (research director), Katie Curtis (events & marketing manager), John Rafferty (finance & operations manager), Katherine Sangster (national manager, Scottish Fabians), Josh Abey (researcher), Ben Cooper (researcher), Vanesha Singh (assistant editor), Shehana Udat (membership officer), Olivia Bailey (former deputy general secretary), Alex Sanderson (former director of external affairs and events), Jason Brock (former senior researcher), Rabyah Khan (former media and communications manager), Natasha Wakelin (former events and stakeholder assistant).

Young Fabians executive

Adam Allnutt (chair), Mo Ahmed (regional coordinator), Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin (secretary), Nathaneal Amos-Sansam (Antics assistant editor), Emily Batchelor (women's officer), Matthew Dickinson (communications officer), Amber Khan (blog editor), Albie Mills (Scottish secretary), Becky Montacute (policy officer), George Penny (fundraising officer), Carolina Saludes (vice-chair), Henna Shah (Antics editor), Mhairi Tordoff (treasurer), Mark Whittaker (networks coordinator), Hollie Wickens (international officer).

Fabian Women's Network executive

Caroline Adams, Victoria Akintomide-Akinwamide, Cllr Shaista Aziz (co-vice chair), Cllr Josie Channer, Cllr Kelly Grehan, Dr Sarah Hutchinson, Cllr Sara Hyde (chair), Cllr Mumtaz Khan (secretary), Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung, Christine Megson, Amy Moran, Taiwo Owatemi MP, Charlotte Rous (treasurer), Cllr Kindy Sandhu (co-vice chair), Anya Sizer.

Scottish Fabians

Catriona Munro (chair), Cat Headley, Joe Long, Martin McCluskey, Scott Nicholson, Francesca Sellors.

Convenors

Helen Taylor (Welsh Fabians), Cecilia Eve (International policy group), Martin Edobor (Health & care policy group), Brian Matthews (Education policy group), Michael Weatherburn (Economic & finance policy group).



Individual

Standard	5719
Student	642
Retired	1057
Unemployed	456

7,874

Institutional

Trade Unions	7
Libraries	14
Corporate	0
CLPs	12
Local Fabian societies	18

51

7,925

**members
across the UK**



Fabians remembered

Mr J.J. Barker
Mr J.R. Sargent
Mr E.A. Stevens
Mike Chambers
Mr D. B. Valentine
G. M. Cockburn
Dr Kathleen M. May
Douglas Elgee
Colin Rendall
Mrs Shabnum Sadiq
Dr Jeffrey Garland

Local Fabian societies

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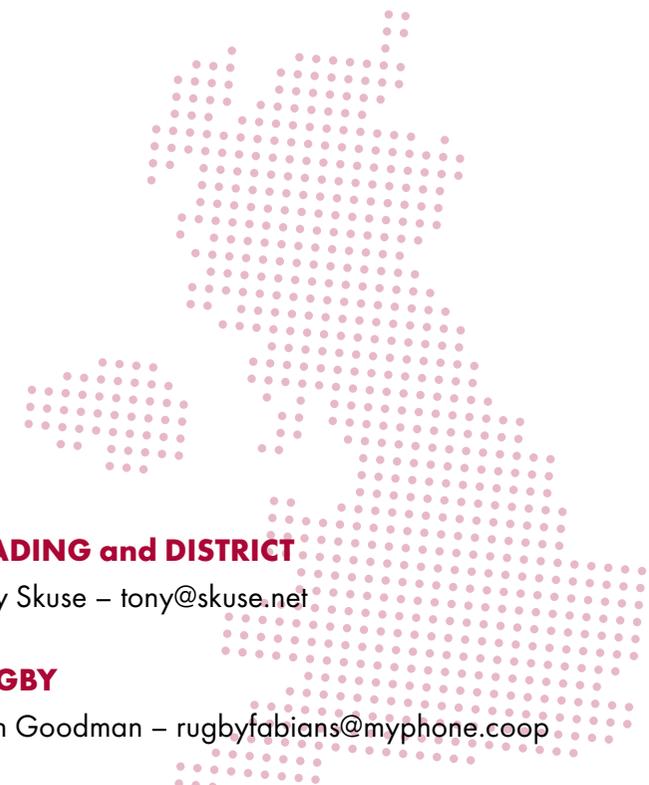
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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

**Influencing political thinking, with the help of
our members across the UK**

**FABIAN
SOCIETY**



CHAIR'S REPORT

By Ivana Bartoletti, Fabian Society chair



This has been an extraordinary year, with the Covid-19 pandemic having far-reaching economic and social consequences. We are still in the midst of a crisis which has brought job losses, social insecurity and educational uncertainties.

Longer term, the pandemic is going to permanently change the way we live and work, reshaping our geography from the big cities to the most isolated villages. Remote working – for those who can – will increasingly become the norm.

Meanwhile a substantial group of people face much higher daily risks to deliver vital goods and services – with or without a clap, let alone a pay rise. Automation is likely to advance at rocket speed to ensure greater flexibility and less reliance on the human workforce; security, digital, privacy and data issues have become mainstream topics of conversation. Unemployment will continue to affect many, and on top of that we have yet to experience being fully outside the European Union. All of this presents challenges and risks that cry out for leadership and imagination and the new ideas and policy solutions that the Fabian Society can advance.

The Fabian Society has been leading from the front in these difficult circumstances and we should be proud of it. It is testament to our role, history, and leadership that Keir Starmer and so many of our executive committee members are now shaping the future of the Labour party with passion and pragmatism. We were delighted to see our former chair Kate Green appointed shadow education secretary, playing a key role in highlighting the A level results fiasco and holding the government to account as schools reopened. This is excellent work for us all to build on.

Our Fabian political programme has been outstanding, and I want to praise the whole team for their ability to and adapt rapidly to the new circumstances brought by the pandemic. They have delivered a stream of excellent webinars and online events, engaging with our growing membership and involving shadow

cabinet members in discussions. This is something to continue exploring even when we return to something approaching normality.

In late 2019 we secured funding for two major projects: a commission on early years (on a cross-party basis working in partnership with the Centre for Social Justice); and a new study on social security consensus building. During the first half of 2020 we entered the final stages of the Commission on Workers and Technology (our joint initiative with Community union). Chaired by Yvette Cooper MP, the project is drawing important conclusions about what needs to happen to make new workplace technologies more of an opportunity than a threat for typical workers. Inevitably the conclusions it reaches will be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Highlights from our editorial output included Public Service Futures: Welfare States in the Digital Age, published jointly with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies. The essay collection examined how public services will need to adapt in the 2020s, with contributions from the UK and across Europe.

New Year conference took place on Saturday 18 January and was a great success, with London mayor Sadiq Khan and Keir Starmer MP the keynote speakers. The event sold out with over 700 delegates and had a hugely positive atmosphere despite the recent general election defeat. Everyone who attended remarked on how important the event was in terms of cohesion, hope and a shared sense of future.

However, uncertainties remain as physical Fabian events showed no sign of resuming as the 2019/20 year ended. This has impacted the finances of the society, as has the wider unpredictability of the political and economic landscape. Even before the pandemic, the 2019 general election had reduced our fundraising capacity and led us to take the difficult decision to reduce the size of our staff team. I am personally grateful to all our wonderful members, volunteers and staff for rising to the challenges over the last few months. And I am hugely grateful to our general secretary Andrew Harrop and the whole team for all the positive results, hard work and professionalism that has kept the Fabian show on the road.

As we navigate the months ahead, we can confidently build on our long track record of political innovation and rigorous policy thinking to play a key role in the refreshed Labour movement. These new times require creativity and reliable radicalism, and the Fabian Society is ready to help equip Labour with the ideas it needs to win the hearts and minds of Britain's voters.

“The Fabian Society has been leading from the front in these difficult circumstances and we should be proud of it. It is testament to our role, history, and leadership that Keir Starmer and so many of our executive committee members are now shaping the future of the Labour party with passion and pragmatism.”

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Andrew Harrop, Fabian Society general secretary



There have been many eventful years in the history of the Fabian Society, but people will look back at the period from July 2019 to June 2020 for a very long time to come. Within 12 months we saw the constitutional crisis of Brexit paralysis, Labour's disastrous winter election defeat and an unprecedented global pandemic.

The election represented a decisive public verdict on Labour's four-year break with Fabianism under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. But after the defeat, there was a rapid and extraordinary resurgence in the Fabian tradition, personified by the election of Keir Starmer: for the first time in Fabian history, a serving member of the society's executive committee became Labour leader.

Starmer appointed two more members of the Fabian executive, Anneliese Dodds and Kate Green, to his shadow cabinet and they sit alongside a dozen other leading members of the society. These changes at the top were accompanied by a broader surge in support for the Fabians across the country, with our membership reaching a record high of more than 8,000.

Alas, spring also saw the deadly arrival of Covid-19 which upended our activities almost overnight. Our home on Petty France was closed, face-to-face meetings came to a halt and Fabian summer conference was cancelled. But the show went on.

Our events programme was transformed into an online speaker series, which to my delighted led to soaring participation from Fabians across the country. The staff team were superb in making the best of the enforced transition to digital working – with particular thanks to John Rafferty and Katie Curtis, who lead on operations and events respectively.

Covid-19 also hit our finances. We were unable to meet our fundraising target for the year, and projects scheduled for 2020/21 were moved back, meaning that the associated income will be reported next year. This resulted in a significant one-off deficit which will not be repeated in 2021/22.

With a general election as well as lockdown the year's programme of face-to-face events was seriously curtailed. However, we still held a wide-ranging fringe programme at Labour party conference and a huge New Year conference, where hundreds of members joined Keir Starmer and other senior MPs for a purposeful and cathartic post-mortem of the election. Days later we also convened a private summit of leading Labour figures to present our analysis of the defeat and chart a course forward for the party.

Meanwhile it was a bumper year for Fabian essay collections. We were delighted to publish a set of articles from the final three Labour leadership candidates; and there were five more multi-authored reports, covering industrial strategy, London, social exclusion, public service innovation and the everyday economy. Rachel Reeves edited the last of these and other contributors across the year included Sadiq Khan, Angela Rayner, Lisa Nandy, Andy Haldane and Frances O'Grady.

The Fabian Review went from strength to strength under the steady helm of editor Kate Murray. And we published two sole-authored pamphlets by Jim Gallagher on federalism and Wes Streeting on the path forward for Labour after the 2019 defeat.

The Fabian research team was as productive as ever, despite all the external turbulence. There were reports on rent control, social security reform, the case for a pensions commission and self-employment rights; as

well as the ongoing programme of the commission on workers and technology, our joint inquiry with Community union chaired by Yvette Cooper. Fabian proposals from recent research also featured in the 2019 Labour manifesto – on social security, legal aid, arts education and fiscal policy.

Just before the lockdown came, we marked the end of an era in the Fabian office, with the retirement of Deborah Stoate after three decades supporting the work of local Fabian societies. Deborah will be hugely missed by Fabians across the country but the staff team stepped in to fill her shoes and provided excellent support to local societies as they got to grips with online meetings. In addition, we said farewell to our fantastic research director and deputy general secretary, Olivia Bailey, who was promptly snapped up by Keir Starmer's office. Huge thanks also to Alex Sanderson, Jason Brock, Rabyah Khan, Alex Sanderson and Natasha Wakelin who left us during the year.

The success of the society in adapting to the virtual world of Covid-19 is proof that the Fabians are in good health. Our volunteer-led sections, groups and local societies sustained an amazing programme, the executive committee offered unstinting support and the staff team showed astonishing cheerfulness, resilience and productivity. The society is ready for its next chapter: helping to build the intellectual foundations of a Keir Starmer-led Labour government.

“The success of the society in adapting to the virtual world of Covid-19 is proof that the Fabians are in good health.”

YOUNG FABIANS

By Adam Allnutt, Young Fabians chair



This has been a breakout year for the Young Fabians. We have hosted delegates from around Europe, sent delegations to a host of international events, embraced the move to digital as early adopters, redesigned and modernised our publications, grown our reach across the nations and regions, established new groups, built up our policy networks, and put the Young Fabians on a strong and influential footing for the future.

We are the training ground for future policymakers and influencers on the left, and we have proven this year that we can deliver an ambitious work plan thanks to our amazing activists.

This year's committee is a brilliantly talented group of people who have worked hard to make our society a welcoming, safe and productive space. The Young Fabians are all about giving opportunities to our members

The Young Fabians have truly gone international this year and provided our members with some excellent opportunities.

In November 2019, at the start of our term, we hosted over 45 delegates made up from every nation in Europe for a Young European Socialist (YES) bureau meeting with the support of a former YF Chair Howard Dawber and the Canary Wharf Group. This is the first time we can find that a UK affiliate has brought an official YES event to this country.

We sent the second to last delegation of 16 members to the European Parliament in January before we ceased being EU members, hosted by two Labour MEPs. We sent delegations to the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) summit on queer workers' rights, a four-person delegation to a summit on the EU-wide Green New Deal, our chair and vice-chair were the only British representatives to attend a social democratic youth leaders' summit in Brussels and delegations to three separate FEPS events.

We represented the UK at the British South Asian Youth Summit alongside 11 other

delegations from across South Asia and hosted the chief minister of Gibraltar.

It has always been a challenge getting the Young Fabians out of London but this year we have succeeded – and gone further by devolving power.

We have established both national and regional groups that have taken off spectacularly and we could not be prouder. We now have groups established in the North West, North East, Scotland, South West, East of England and we are now exploring groups in Wales, South West, Northern Ireland and the East Midlands.

We have now even established our first university group, the University of Manchester Young Fabians.

Producing publications, writing for our website and researching brilliant pieces of work is what we are known for doing best and this year our members have raised the bar.

The blog this year has been the busiest it has ever been with nearly 500 articles submitted and the quality has been exceptional. We have held a writing competition with New Statesman's editor-in-chief judging and publishing our members' work on their website.

We've really established the Young Fabian podcast this year with some exciting guests and brilliant topics. We have brought together a rebranded Anticipations magazine. Our policy work this term has surpassed

any previous and has included; a tech pamphlet with contributors who lead their field entitled In Modern Britain: Global Leader in Ethical AI; a pamphlet on how to build in more accountability for climate change with shadow ministers entitled Climate Change Accountability; an economics pamphlet focused on whether we should judge a society's progress on GDP or happiness; a healthcare pamphlet putting forward a range of policy options entitled The Alternative Health Manifesto and a pamphlet analysing the new metro mayor system.

The events this year have been a real highlight with 180+ since the start of our term and have hosted more than 100 Labour MPs, MSPs, Lords, councillors, mayors, assembly members and council leaders including Anneliese Dodds MP, Kate Green MP, Jonathan Ashworth MP, Matthew Pennycook MP and Thangam Debbonaire MP.

We established a new record at Labour Connected with a conference fringe of 11 events all run by our brilliant team covering a wide range of subjects.

To cap off what has been an excellent year in harder times, we will establish a mentorship programme that will help develop our talented members and help build their careers.

We are the place where the future of the left will get their experience, grow and become brilliant policymakers and influencers.

“We are the training ground for future policymakers and influencers on the left, and we have proven this year that we can deliver an ambitious work plan thanks to our amazing activists.”



FABIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK

By Sara Hyde, Fabian Women's Network chair



In autumn 2019, our incoming executive had our induction plans disrupted by an unexpected general election. Little did we know that responding and adapting to unforeseen circumstances whilst running FWN was to become an essential part of our skill set over this unusual year.

We were proud to have seven former mentees standing as parliamentary, one of whom – Abena Oppong-Asare – became an MP. Fabian Women's Network member Taiwo Owatemi was also elected to parliament, as MP for Coventry North West.

I am deeply grateful to the talented, hard-working FWN executive committee who have created an exceptional programme of work: they are all formidable women, who inspire and teach me daily.

Special thanks to our co-vice chairs, Cllr Dr Kindy Sandhu and Cllr Shaista Aziz. The executive as a whole is grateful to the amazing Fabian sisters nationwide who throughout the ups and downs of recent times have continued in sisterhood, solidarity and service: the values that underpin all our work.

Policy work

In the second half of 2019 we released an updated version of our Stand up and be Counted: be a Councillor booklet, with LGA Labour Group, launched at Labour Party conference.

Also, a party conference, we held the event Roadmap to zero carbon emissions 2030 – doing our bit: nationally, locally, personally, as part of our ongoing work on the climate emergency.

We were planning our first members' conference for mid- March to help set our policy work and priorities until November 2021. We postponed it until autumn 2020 and are looking at a virtual event in early 2021.

During lockdown we began a series of zoom events across a variety of policy

topics including Covid-19 related issues and commemorating 50 years since the Equal Pay Act. We ran a series of 'Wonder Women Wednesday' events, designed to encourage women earlier on in their political journeys. Topics included being a new MP, the role of the NEC, an 'in conversation' event with Angela Rayner and diversity in local government. Special thanks to our events co-ordinator Kelly Grehan.

FWN anti-racist work

Towards the end of the period that this report covers came the murder of George Floyd and the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement. This caused us to further interrogate what it means for FWN to become a truly anti-racist space.

We recognise that tackling racism of any kind is not the responsibility of women of colour, who are already exhausted from living in a structurally racist society and genuine allyship is essential. We have developed an anti-racism work plan, which you can view on our website.

Launch of FWN North

In May 2020, Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung and Dr Sarah Hutchinson did a brilliant job relaunching FWN North. Following an election defeat in 2019 where the Labour party lost key seats in the North East, the North West, and Yorkshire and Humber, it felt more

pressing than ever for FWN to focus some of its work specifically on this part of the country.

We look forward to campaigning for our former FWN exec member Jessie Joe Jacobs as Tees Valley Mayor candidate and former mentee Joy Allen as candidate for Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner in the run-up to May 2021.

Mentoring scheme

The ninth cohort began in September 2019; they have had to contend with the disruptions of the general election and then Covid-19.

Caroline Adams and Christine Megson have done a brilliant job, as ever, to facilitate a worthwhile experience for participants.

We have now recruited cohort 10, who are due to start in December 2020. This will take the number of FWN mentees to over 250.

“We recognise that tackling racism of any kind is not the responsibility of women of colour, who are already exhausted from living in a structurally racist society and genuine allyship is essential. “

SCOTTISH FABIANS

By **Catriona Munro, Scottish Fabians chair**



2020 began with our AGM in January – our first and last face to face event of this year. There was an interesting discussion on rebuilding Scottish Labour, with a panel of former MP Martin Whitfield, Sarah Boyack MSP and councillor Lezley Cameron.

Since the Covid-19 crisis hit, we have had a number of online events including a conversation with Jackie Baillie MSP; a conversation with Ayesha Hazarika about the media in the crisis; and a discussion about the economic crisis with Anneliese Dodds MP and others.

In the autumn, we ran a programme of events at the Labour party's online Connected conference including Monica Lennon MSP on women and Covid-19; an event on the environment; an event on immigration, and finally an event on the recovery of Scottish Labour.

Young Scottish Fabians are running monthly discussion groups under the banner "Red, Aye".

We have published a range of articles and essays on topics including rebuilding Scottish Labour, the future of the UK, and the impact of Covid-19 on a variety of policy areas.

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

A new research project and the collaboration with FEPS

In addition to the member-facing events, we have been engaged in a research project on devolution, largely funded by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS). It is looking back over the successes of devolution and looking forward to the challenges ahead.

The centrepiece is polling and focus group work. The research and editorial work is being carried out by national manager Katherine Sangster and Martin McCluskey. The initial results of the polling, focussing on attitudes towards the

Scottish parliament and to a second independence referendum, received great coverage in all the Scottish papers and some UK papers, with a leader comment in the Scotsman.

This is an exciting project and a significant step for the Scottish Fabians, carrying out this project largely independently in Scotland but under the Fabian brand. A publication will follow in late 2020 focusing on how we make devolution a success.

The planned conferences in Brussels and Edinburgh will now be a single online event. With the Scottish parliament elections now imminent, we hope that this work will provide important input into the Scottish Labour offer for 2021.

“We have been engaged in a research project on devolution, largely funded by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS). It is looking back over the successes of devolution and looking forward to the challenges ahead. ”

WELSH FABIANS

By Helen Taylor, Welsh Fabians convenor



This has been a strange year for all of us. Since my election to the post of Welsh convenor, there has been a UK general election, a UK Labour party leadership contest and then the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Life was disrupted for all of us from March onwards with the lockdown, eased over the summer, but without a return to anything resembling normality. I write this on eve of our second national lockdown in Wales.

I have found it a difficult year on a personal and health level, although relatively unscathed by the pandemic, and the Welsh Fabians have not made the progress I hoped for at the point I was elected. However, we are now regaining momentum and looking forward to a better year to come. A steering group was established in the spring, and we are now in the process of charting a way forward.

A questionnaire will go out to the Welsh Fabian membership in the next few weeks to establish priorities for activity.

A programme of remote meetings will start before the end of the year to introduce the membership to Welsh and UK politicians, and discuss policy – both in devolved and reserved areas – in order to influence policy development in Wales, and to provide a Welsh perspective for policy development in the UK. The first will take place in the last week of November and the subject will be a panel event discussing women and the criminal justice system in Wales.

The Fabian Society is at its best when members are empowered to contribute to the society's mission, and as face-to-face meetings do not look likely for many months, we will encourage members to participate in Wales-wide online fora that reflect their interests and generate policy ideas.

We look forward to a busy and active 2021.

LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES



This has been another year where local Fabian societies have gone from strength to strength – even though the coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the activities of many of them.

Some local societies have successfully moved to remote meetings via Zoom, with the Fabian Society staff team providing technical training and support for those who are unfamiliar with the software.

The events that have taken place have benefited from being able to invite speakers who might not ordinarily be able to travel across the country to take part in meetings.

This year has also seen new societies established and previously dormant societies start up again. These have included Newham Fabians, Enfield Fabians and Finchley Fabians. We continue to be committed to developing the local societies network with Cambridge, Bristol, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield having initial meetings of those interested in starting groups. We are also working with members interested in setting up societies in south east London, Canterbury and Eastbourne.

This year the Fabian Society wished a fond farewell to **Deborah Stoate**, who retired in January after almost three decades as our officer for local Fabian societies. In that time members of local societies across the country came to rely on Deborah's assistance, advice and encouragement, and they will remember her with huge affection.

The highlight of Deborah's year was always the annual gathering of local Fabian societies at our summer parliamentary tea - a tradition we hope to resurrect as soon as health measures permit.

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2019/2020

Our impact on the political and policy landscape

**FABIAN
SOCIETY**



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Highlights of our political programme in 2019/2020

Fabian events go online

The first Covid-19 lockdown sees Fabian face-to-face meetings replaced by a successful series of online events, with impressive audiences from across the UK. Speakers include Anneliese Dodds, Owen Jones, Helena Kennedy, David Lammy, Rachel Reeves, Wes Streeting and Emily Thornberry.

Party conference fringe programme 2019

As Labour comes together for its annual conference in Brighton, the society delivers a lively fringe programme with sessions on everything from climate change to older people's care, and from defence to immigration.



Where next? Labour's path to power

In January, the society brings together 30 leading Labour politicians and electoral strategists to discuss the 2019 election result and future prospects for the party. The day examines Labour's electoral strategy, policy offer and organisational challenges.

Labour party manifesto

The Labour party manifesto includes several proposals reflecting recent Fabian research. These include policy on social security reform, arts education and fiscal rules. Most notably the manifesto contains pledges for reforming legal aid drawn from the Bach Commission on access to justice.



FEPS-Fabian New Year conference 2020

Five weeks after the devastating general election defeat, the FEPS-Fabian New Year Conference debates the course forward for the left. A packed hall hears from keynote speakers Sadiq Khan and Keir Starmer MP while panels discuss rebuilding Labour's electoral coalition and the UK's post-Brexit EU relationship. Speakers included Jonathan Ashworth MP, Hilary Benn MP, Seema Malhotra MP and journalists Polly Toynbee and Paul Mason. A lively Dragons' Den session, with Kate Green MP, Rachel Reeves MP and Wes Streeting MP dissects policy pitches from the audience.



Path to power

The Fabian leadership essays

Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Lisa Nandy MP, Keir Starmer MP
February 2020

Path to Power: The Fabian leadership essays

The Fabian Society is Labour party's oldest affiliate, and our members have a vote in the Labour leadership election. Lisa Nandy MP, Rebecca Long-Bailey MP and Keir Starmer MP each write long essays for a special Fabian report, setting out their offer to the party and the country.



Let us Face the Future Again: Wes Streeting MP

There's a new look to our Fabian ideas series, drawing on the heritage of past Fabian 'tracts'. Wes Streeting MP reflects on Labour's disastrous election defeat and is inspired by the 1945 Labour manifesto to present a 5-pronged Labour agenda to improve the lives of millions.

A Fabian shadow cabinet

Keir Starmer steps down from the Fabian Society executive following his election as Labour leader. He appoints two other members of the society's executive to the shadow cabinet, Anneliese Dodds and Kate Green. Dozens of other prominent Fabians are appointed to positions across the shadow cabinet and front-bench.

Commission on Workers and Technology

Now in its second year, the Commission on Workers and Technology continues to examine how to make automation work for ordinary workers. Chaired by Yvette Cooper MP and convened jointly with Community union, the commission continues to gather evidence from workers, businesses, trade unions and policy experts – conducting focus groups, holding interviews and analysing data. The commission's final report will be published later in 2020.

FABIAN POLICY GROUPS

Fabian member policy groups are member-led networks that explore policy issues in detail

Health policy group

With many of the health network's members working in frontline roles during the pandemic, the group decided to strengthen its links with the Young Fabian health network. This year we created a briefing pack on Covid-19 and health inequalities for the shadow health team.

We also published an essay collection titled Fabian Perspectives on Mental Health, which was followed by a panel discussion headlined by Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP.

Our convenor, Dr Tom Gardiner, featured in a Young Fabian panel discussion on health inequalities at Labour Connected, alongside shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth MP.

International policy group

2020 has been an excellent year for the Fabian international policy group, despite the onset of the pandemic.

We launched an incredibly successful Zoom series, hosting 15 debates, talks and a Labour leadership race, with 10+ Lords and shadow cabinet ministers including the shadow home secretary.

Topics ranged from the DFID-FCO merger to the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on women and gender pay gap reporting, the call for an independent investigation into the Beirut blast, Labour's green recovery, international trade policy, multilateral reform post Covid-19 and much more.

We have had a great level of collaboration with the Young Fabians, Labour Campaign for International Development, (LCID) and international NGOs. We have also seen a significant membership increase, with a new Facebook page and official mailing list.

Our members' policy articles have also been published in several political magazines and members have been nominated for the FEPS annual autumn

academy. We look forward to seeing what else we will accomplish together.

Economic and finance policy group

Initially led by Louisa Metcalfe and Michael Weatherburn, in 2019-20 the Fabian economic and finance policy group coalesced from an idea to reality.

We are coordinating monthly with Central London Fabians and the Young Fabians finance network to optimise efforts. In July 2020, we hosted our successful Tax after Coronavirus launch event (with 150 attendees), followed by October's A British Basic Income?

Upcoming events on pensions and public-private procurement will follow.

We are also considering member initiatives in mentoring, original research, skills training, outreach to professional associations and social events. Steering committee: Jamie Baxter, Kyalo Burt-Fulcher, Steve Macey, Louisa Metcalfe, Michael Weatherburn.

Education policy group

The group had a well-received session at the Fabian conference in January 2020.

We have successfully transferred to online meetings, seeing excellent numbers of attendees and lively

discussions on a range of topics.

We have continued development of our Blue Skies paper, including two recent working groups looking at special educational needs and disabilities and further education.

We plan to hold webinars on current educational topics, including governance, IT and aspects of the National Education Service, later this year and into 2021.

We also have an active blog where we regularly publish members' views and we are also building a Twitter presence.

We are very pleased to report that we have appointed a new secretary and treasurer.

We feel very positive about the group and the level of the discussions we are having and look forward to the next year despite the difficulties caused by Covid-19.

“2020 has been an excellent year for the Fabian international policy group, despite the onset of the pandemic. We launched an incredibly successful Zoom series, hosting 15 debates, talks and a Labour leadership race, with 10+ Lords and shadow cabinet ministers including the shadow home secretary.”

PUBLICATIONS

A range of pamphlets, essay collections and research reports published this year

13
new
publications
in 2019/2020

People Power: Building an Industrial Strategy with Workers at its Heart, edited by Olivia Bailey and Kate Murray

Capital Gains: A Global City in a Changing World, edited by Kate Murray and Vanesha Singh

Progressive Federalism: A Different Way of Looking at the UK, by Professor JD Gallagher

Commission of Workers and Technology: Background Briefing Note 2019

Beyond Affordability: What Tenants Want from Rent Controls, by Olivia Bailey and Ben Cooper

Everyday Socialism: How to Rebuild Britain, edited by Rachel Reeves MP

People not Problems: Politicians Respond to Five Experiences of Severe and Multiple Disadvantage, edited by Olivia Bailey and Ben Cooper

Where Next? Reforming Social Security over the Next 10 Years, by Andrew Harrop with Ben Cooper

Framing the Future: A New Pensions Commission, by Andrew Harrop, Ryan Shorthouse and Sam Robinson

Path to Power: The Fabian Leadership Essays, by Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Lisa Nandy MP and Keir Starmer MP

Let Us Face the Future Again, by Wes Streeting MP

The Self-Employment Justice Gap: The Case for Online Dispute Resolution, by Jason Brock

Public Service Futures: Welfare States in the Digital Age, edited by Andrew Harrop, Justin Nogarede and Kate Murray

Jenny Jeger Prize

The Jenny Jeger prize for writing was established to commemorate Jenny Jeger, chair of the society in 1984. The winners in 2019 were:

Full-length reports

1st prize | Ben Cooper, [Primary Colours](#)

Judges said it offered “clear practical recommendations on an important but under-researched issue”.

2nd prize | David Clark, [A Warranted Response](#)

Judges called this a “classic Fabian pamphlet, clearly and powerfully argued”.

Shorter writing

1st prize | Hannah Cooper for her chapter Safe and Supported in [Open and Ethical: Building a Fairer Immigration System](#)

2nd prize | David Lindo for his chapter The Birds and The Bees in [Capital Gains: A Global City in a Changing World](#)

Young author

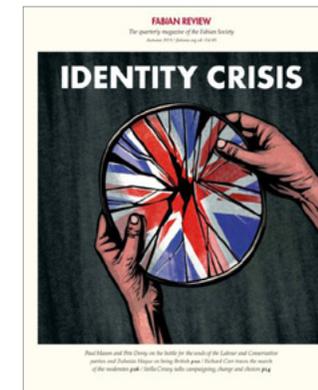
Amy Longland for her article Politicising the People in the [Fabian Review](#)

Fabian Review

Over the year, the Fabian Review has featured a broad range of writers and contributors with their takes on the fast-changing political landscape.

Highlights have included:

- Articles by Anneliese Dodds MP and Ed Miliband MP;
- Interviews with Yvette Cooper MP and Stella Creasy MP;
- Specials on the aftermath of the general election, green policy and the state of the union.



EVENTS IN 2019/2020

Fabian events run throughout the year, from our flagship conferences, to policy roundtables, lectures and local Fabian Society meetings



July 2019

- Parliamentary tea and debate on bringing the UK back together

September 2019

- Fabian fringe programme at Labour party conference

January 2020

- FEPS-Fabian Society New Year Conference: where next for the left in the 2020s?
- Where next? Labour's path to power summit

February 2020

- Poverty and social security: where next? pamphlet launch
- Beyond affordability report launch

March 2020

- Let us face the future again pamphlet launch*
- Everyday Socialism pamphlet debate*

April 2020

- In conversation with Emily Thornberry*
- Covid-19 and human rights*
- New leader, new challenges*
- The British Left in 2020: new leader, new challenges*

May 2020

- In conversation with David Lammy*
- Public service futures: welfare states in the digital age pamphlet launch*
- After Merkel, after the crisis: can German social democracy be saved?*
- A woman's place is in the Treasury. An evening with Anneliese Dodds MP*
- The future of the European left: does the 2020 crisis change everything?*

June 2020

- The broadest shoulders: women, the frontline & Covid-19*
- Families and food insecurity during coronavirus*
- Brexit and the UK/EU future: the view from the left*

FINANCIAL REPORT

**An extract from the financial statements
2019/20 (a full version of the audited
accounts is available to members on request)**

**FABIAN
SOCIETY**



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Lord Kennedy, Fabian Society treasurer



My first report to you as the treasurer is made in the most exceptional of circumstances and right at the start I want to express my sincere thanks to Andrew Harrop and all the Fabian Society staff along with my colleagues on the executive committee for the way they have responded to the challenges and delivered on our goals.

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in disruption to the delivery of our planned projects and this has led to a large deficit in the accounts. This deficit arises mainly as a result of not being able to recognise the full value of some ongoing projects until the work is completed. This income will be recognised in next year's audited accounts. The remainder of the deficit was caused by our fundraising being lower than the target we set in summer 2019, with both the 2019 election and the pandemic making it harder than expected to secure new project income. Once it became clear that our fundraising target was unachievable the society initiated expenditure savings, including a staff restructure, which will continue to bring benefits in future years.

On a more positive note, it has been an excellent year for membership income, with a welcome increase in members and regular donors following the general election. This will continue to provide a reliable source of funds in the year ahead.

Looking to 2020/21, the challenge of not being able to have a summer event or have a presence at the Labour party conference with our week of policy discussions has required us to remain completely focused on our finances and to remain both cautious and vigilant to meet the challenges that have been presented to us.

Due to prudent budgeting and careful financial planning and early decisions taken both by the executive committee and the society as a whole we are in a good financial position in the circumstances we find ourselves in. Our membership income is strong and we have reviewed all expenditure to make savings. Discussions with partners and funders are positive and we expect to achieve a surplus and fully meet our commitments and liabilities in 2020/21.

Auditor's statement

By Knox Cropper LLP

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors

8/9 Well Court

London EC4M 9DN

16 October 2020

We have audited the financial statements of The Fabian Society (the 'Society') for the year ended 30 June 2020 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 2020 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Financial statements	2020	2019
Income	£	£
Individual Members	340,462	276,432
Institutional Affiliations and Subscriptions	8,046	7,978
Donations and Legacies	48,047	61,063
Publications Sales	3,131	3,239
Conference and Events	149,410	193,185
Publication Sponsorship and Adverts	18,618	89,062
Research Projects	89,600	206,500
Rents	15,790	15,563
Bank Interest, Royalties and Misc.	1,572	727
Total Income	£674,676	£853,749

Expenditure	£	£
Research Projects	13,811	70,408
Staff Costs	451,670	464,128
Printing and Distribution	95,630	100,589
Conference and Events	57,206	32,902
Promotion	1,677	738
Affiliation Fees	7,449	6,162
Postage, Phone and Fax	3,495	6,059
Depreciation	25,145	23,345
Other	27,231	26,952
Stationery and Copying	9,549	7,546
Legal and Professional	5,949	9,875
Irrecoverable VAT	1,561	2,036
Premises Costs	62,260	57,475
Bad debts	3,764	1,622
Information Systems	25,963	44,562
Total Expenditure	£792,360	£854,399

Surplus/Deficit	-£117,684	-£650
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Balance sheet (£)	2020		2019	
FIXED ASSETS	1,222,160		1,246,956	
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock	6,693		6,383	
Debtors and Prepayments	102,631		253,834	
Bank and Cash	589		1,121	
	109,913		261,338	
CREDITORS – AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
Creditors and Accruals	-169,894		-228,431	
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		-59,981		32,907
NET ASSETS	1,162,179		1,279,863	
General Fund		1,141,986		1,262,460
Restricted Fund		20,193		17,403
TOTAL FUNDS	1,162,179		1,279,863	

To view the full financial statements, please contact:

**The Fabian Society,
61 Petty France,
London SW1H 9EU.**

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY 2019/20

Funding partners and membership income

Funding partners

Income associated with specific research, editorial and events projects totalled **£257,628** in 2019/20 and came from a wide range of companies, trade unions, non-profit organisations and trusts. Sources of funding in excess of £7,500 (except for donations from members) are reported as part of our commitment to transparency. This financial support is for individual projects and does not imply that the funder endorses the society's political objectives.

Funder	Amount (£)
Association of British Insurers	39,000
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry	8,500
AQA	10,000
TheCityUK	8,500
City of London Corporation	9,250
Community	60,390
Foundation for European Progressive Studies	31,020
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	23,900
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	18,300
Kindred Foundation	28,750
Lankelly Chase Foundation	11,500
Lloyds Banking Group	12,000
Price Waterhouse Coopers	8,500
Shelter	13,000
Standard Life Foundation	24,000
B&CE Holdings Ltd	9,000
Vodafone	10,000

Membership income

Our membership income comes from subscriptions and supplementary donations from members, associate members, affiliates and institutional subscribers. In 2019/20 this amounted to **£348,508**. As of 30 June 2020, we had 7,925 members, affiliates and subscribers. One member donated more than £7,500 to our general funds.

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

Mark Abbott, Mark Addison, Joanna Allotey, Philippa Alway, Ernest Ambe, Grahame Anderson, Dane Anderton, Patrick Antipof, Theodore Antoniou-Phillips, Peter Apps, Benn Archer, Javahir Askari, Alex Astley, Lianne Babbs-Reilly, Hazel P. Barkham, David Barratt, Alison Barratt, Dan Barrow, Ralph Bayley, Jennifer Beever, Dil Begun, Alexander Bell, Roger Bonehill, Hannah Bowen-Viner, Sarah Boyack, Andrew Boyle, Dominic Breen, Michael Brett, Jillian Briggs, Gary Brooks, Hugh Burton, Lucy Caldicott, Will Campbell-Wroe, Sarah Carter, Kevin Cathcart, Jennifer Chan, Ken Chapman, Sherif Choudhry, Tony Clark, Frazer Clarke, Nola Clements, Dean Cobb, James Coleman-

Mills, Simon Cole-Savidge, Charlotte Cooke, John Cooper, Ben Cox, Alex Craven, Alister Cryan, Suzy Cuthbert, Jeannie Davidson, Daniel Davies, Alistair Dawber, Alex Dawes, Alexander Dobson, Robert Douglas, Martin Dunbar, Craig Dunn, Dee Dutta, Paul Edwards, Sian Eiles, Fraser Elliott, Max Everest, David Eyles, Ben Farren, Leon Fernando Del Canto, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Michael Flannagan, Declan Flannery, Edmund Frondigoun, Adam Fyfe, Olek Gajowniczek, Patrick Geraghty, Emma Giddings, Joshua Gill, Robyn Gow, Rob Grayston, Kate Green, Robert Guthrie, Jeremy Hague, Theo Hall, Joshua Potter Hall, Simon Halliday, John Halton, Kirsty Halton, Clara Jane Grace Hamlin, Sam Hardeman, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Christopher Harris, Michael Harrison, David Harrold, Paul Hassall, William Hayles, Jane Hayward, A.J. Heyes, Conor Hill, Jacky Ivimy, Rajvinder Jagdev, Pete Jarrett, Thomas Jeacock, Marilyn Jenkins, Laila Jhaveri, Mikhail Johaadien, Si Jones, David Jones, Kevin Josling, Tom Jupp, Stephen Kamalarajan, John Kennedy, Barry Kidson, Alexander Kirk, Robert Knapp, Lee Laudat-Scott, Alice Lazzati, Sonny Leong, Alex Levitt, Ruth Lister, David Lydon, Adam Lynn, Patrick Macauley, Oban Mackie, Alms del Mar, Liam Martin-Lane, Hugh Matheson, Kathleen McGillicuddy, Patrick McGovern, Anne McGurk, Jim McMahan, Dora Meredith, Jenny Miller, Sarah Miller, Duncan Mills, Liz Minns, Ahmed Hassan Mohammed, Phoebe Morris-Jones, Stuart Murden, John A. Murphy, Tamara Murray, David Murrell, Bart Myners, Consolata Ndungu, Dan Neidle, John Newham, Samantha

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The Fabian Society

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