

British Islands and Mediterranean Region

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

CONTACT US

 0300 200 6565

 Contact@assembly.wales

 www.assembly.wales

 [@AssemblyWales](https://twitter.com/AssemblyWales)

© National Assembly for Wales Commission Copyright 2017
The text of this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading or derogatory context. The material must be acknowledged as copyright of the National Assembly for Wales Commission and the title of the document specified.

Content

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Foreword | 5 |
| Programme | 9 |
| Biographies | 19 |
| Speakers | 59 |
| Performers | 71 |
| Conference Management | 75 |



Foreword



Joyce Watson AM
BIMR CWP Chair

Croeso i Gymru – Welcome to Wales! It is difficult to avoid the B-word, these days. Suffice to say, current events have given fresh impetus to governments everywhere to update their economic plans. At a meeting held in London last month, Commonwealth trade ministers did just that, agreeing to deepen the economic ties within our family of nations.

This conference, then, is a timely opportunity to explore how women can play a full and equal role in our respective and collective economies, now and in the future, and how policy-makers can support women to achieve and prosper.

Across the British Islands and Mediterranean Region, we are making progress – but equality remains patchy. Women disproportionately work in low paid and part-time roles and are notably absent from certain sectors, like engineering and manufacturing, and leadership positions generally throughout the labour market. At the same time, traditional gendered roles – women as ‘primary carers’ and alike – continue to influence and disrupt women’s professional decisions, opportunities and progress.

The financial cost of this underrepresentation is huge (a recent report calculated that closing the gender gap could add £150 billion to the UK economy by 2025), as is the correlative impact on society.

So as we come together in Cardiff, the aim is to collaborate, challenge and inspire change – to identify the barriers preventing women from fulfilling their potential, spot gaps in policy and strategy and share best practice.

Through an exciting and interactive agenda, we bring together representatives from major sectors, international business, innovative start-ups, government, the third sector and education. We will hear from high flyers and have a brush with sweet success, build bridges and cross the generational divide. We will learn how business, policy-makers and stakeholders can together take steps towards greater gender equality, to create more prosperous societies and do what works for women.



Programme

Programme

Day one: Thursday 6 April

09.00 – 14.00 **All day Arrival of Conference Delegates:**
Registration at St David's Hotel

Outreach visit

14.15 – 16.15 **G.E outreach visit**

Location:
Nantgarw, Caerphilly

Delegates are invited on this visit to GE Aviation's Nantgarw Site in Caerphilly, South-East Wales.

Over the last twenty-five years, the site has grown rapidly and is now recognised as a global leader in the aviation sector and a premier employer in Wales. The facility which occupies over 1.2 million sq. ft. of workshop space, employs a highly skilled workforce of over 1,200.

As well as a tour of the facility (please note that no photographs are permitted) an address will be given on what GE is doing to actively bridge the STEM-Gender Gap by 2020.

Programme

Day one: Thursday 6 April

Welcome 18.30 – 19.15 **Welcome Reception**

Location:
Pierhead, Futures Gallery

Hosted by the Presiding Officer and CPA Wales Branch Executive Committee Members

Welcome

19.45 – 20.00

Pre-dinner drinks

Location:
Pier 64 Restaurant, Penarth Marina

20.00 – 22.15

Gala Dinner

Hosted by CPA Wales Branch Vice-President, Ann Jones AM

Programme

Day two: Friday 7 April

| | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| Breakfast | 07.30 – 08.30 | Breakfast Steering Committee Meeting |
| Location: Penarth Suite, The St David's Hotel | | Chair: Joyce Watson AM |
| | 08.45 | Depart St David's Hotel |
| Conference start | 09.10 – 09.15 | Opening Address and Overview of Programme |
| Location: Siambr Hywel | | Joyce Watson AM (Wales) |
| Plenary Session 1 | 09.15 – 09.45 | Setting the Scene: Women in the Welsh Economy |
| Location: Siambr Hywel | | An overview of women's position in the Welsh economy, the barriers preventing women from reaching their full potential and the solutions that can ensure women in Wales achieve and prosper |
| Chair: Joyce Watson AM | | Led by Chwarae Teg. Presenters: Cerys Furlong, Natasha Davies |
| Secretary: Anna Burt | 09.45 – 10.10 | Education and Training: Developing Future Female Entrepreneurial Leaders |
| | | Presenter: Christine Atkinson, Head of Women's Entrepreneurship Hub, University of South Wales |
| | | Followed by Q&A |
| | 10.10 – 10.25 | Short Break |
| | | Refreshments available |

Programme

Day two: Friday 7 April

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Plenary Session 2 | 10.30 – 10.50 | The Role of Government in Promoting Women in the Economy |
| Location: Siambr Hywel | | Presenter: Jane Hutt AM |
| Chair: Ann Jones AM | | Welsh Government Leader of the House |
| Secretary: Helen Haywood | 10.50 – 11.20 | Inspirational Local Business Women |
| | | Presenters: Sophie and Hannah Pycroft Spectrum Collections |
| | | Jo Roberts Fabulous Welshcakes |
| | | Followed by Q&A |
| | 11.20 – 11.30 | Short Break |
| | | Refreshments available |

Programme

Day two: Friday 7 April

Plenary Session 3 11.30 – 12.15

Location:
Siambr Hywel

Chair:
Rhianon Passmore AM

Secretary:
Lisa Hart

The Diversity of Women in the Economy

Presenters
Helen Walbey
Diversity Chair of FSB UK

Maxine Barrett
Operations Director at HOS Hire Ltd

Laura Toscano
GE UK HR Leader

Followed by Q&A

12.15

Delegates separate to allocated Workshops

Programme

Day two: Friday 7 April

Workshop A: 12.15 – 13.00

Location:
Siambr Hywel Classroom A

Rapporteur:
Samantha Sacramento

Secretary:
Anna Burt

Workshop B: 12.15 – 13.00

Location:
Siambr Hywel Classroom B

Rapporteur:
Deputy Susie Pinel

Secretary:
Nicola Crawford

Supporting Business to Help Women Achieve and Prosper

During this interactive session, delegates will hear about the work of Chwarae Teg's Agile Nation 2 programme to support businesses across Wales to recruit, retain and progress women and explore the practical steps businesses can take to recruit a diverse workforce.

Facilitated by:
Gemma Littlejohns

Minding the Gap: Women in Construction

Led by Donna Griffiths, Partnership Manager Wales from CITB, and apprentices and other Women working in the sector.

This workshop will demonstrate some of the innovations which are playing an increasingly important role in the world of construction and civil engineering – challenging preconceptions that many women will have of these industries - such as BIM, augmented and virtual reality.

Facilitated by:
Suzy Davies AM, with CITB/ICE

Programme

Day two: Friday 7 April

| | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| Lunch | 13.00 – 14.00 | Networking Buffet Lunch |
| Location: Members' Dining Room, Tŷ Hywel | | A buffet lunch, served in the Members Dining Room, providing a chance to discuss the conference so far with other delegates. |
| | 14.10 – 14.20 | Official Photograph |
| | | Location: Neuadd Steps |
| Interactive Workshop Session for All | 14.30 – 16.00 | "Building Bridges" |
| Location: Senedd Cwrt | | The ICE Bridge challenge, interactive session provides the opportunity to build a miniature version of the Second Severn Crossing. |
| | | This activity will be delivered in partnership between CITB Wales and ICE Wales using trained Female Construction Ambassadors. |
| | 16.00 – 16.20 | Short Break |
| | | Refreshments available |
| | 16.20 – 16.50 | Report Back from Workshops |
| | 16.50 – 17.00 | Conference Closing Remarks |
| | | BIMR CWP Chair, Joyce Watson AM |

Programme

Day two: Friday 7 April

| | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| Dinner | 19.15 – 19.45 | Drinks Reception |
| Location: The St David's Hotel | | Penarth Suite, The St David's Hotel |
| | 19.45 – 22.30 | Official Dinner |
| | | Roald Suite, The St David's Hotel |
| | | Hosted by BIMR CWP Chair, Joyce Watson AM |



Biographies

Biographies



Elin Jones AM
Presiding Officer

Elin Jones has been a member of the National Assembly for Wales since its creation in 1999 and she was elected Presiding Officer in May 2016. In this role she chairs the Business Committee and the Assembly Commission, as well as keeping order in Plenary meetings.

Elin was born and brought up in Lampeter in Ceredigion, the constituency she represents. She graduated from Cardiff University with a BSc in Economics and took a post-graduate MSc in Agricultural Economics at the University of Wales Aberystwyth, before working as an Economic Development officer for the Development Board for Rural Wales.

Before being elected to the Assembly, Elin served as an Aberystwyth town Councillor and was the town's youngest ever Mayor in 1997-98.

During her time at the Assembly, Elin has been Shadow Economic Development Minister, Shadow Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, and Shadow Health Minister. From 2007-2011 she was the Welsh Government's Minister for Rural Affairs. She was the Chair of Plaid Cymru from 2000-2002.

Internationally, Elin represents the Assembly at meetings of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) and is President of the Assembly's Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

Outside the Assembly, Elin enjoys music, films, reading and football – she is a committed supporter of Aberystwyth Town Football Club.

Biographies



Ann Jones AM
Deputy Presiding Officer

Ann Jones has been a member of the National Assembly for Wales since its creation in 1999 and she was appointed Deputy Presiding Officer in May 2016.

Ann was born and brought up in Rhyl on the north Wales coast, where she has lived all her life. She worked for over 30 years in the Fire Service emergency call-handling centre and was a national official of the Fire Brigades Union.

Before being elected to the Assembly, Ann served as a Rhyl town Councillor and was the town's Mayor in 1996-97. She was also a Denbighshire County Councillor.

During her time at the Assembly, Ann has chaired the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee and the Children and Young People Committee and has twice been chair of the Labour Group. She currently chairs the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister and is a member of the Business Committee and the Chairs' Forum. She also chairs the Cross Party Group on Deaf Issues.

In 2007, Ann took forward the first backbench Legislative Proposal, which enabled her to pursue a domestic fire safety law requiring all new houses built to have sprinklers fitted. This law was passed in 2011.

Ann's political interests include education, disability issues and women in public life.

Outside the Assembly, Ann enjoys travelling, reading and football – she is a committed supporter of Rhyl Town Football Club. Ann is married with two children and three grandchildren.

Biographies



Joyce Watson AM
BIMR CWP Chair

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- National Assembly for Wales Commissioner
- BIMR CWP Chair

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2007

Career Summary:

Prior to election ran small businesses; manager of Wales Women's National Coalition; leader of opposition on Pembrokeshire Council. Labour rural affairs spokesperson 2007-2011; author of *Knowing No Boundaries* report on human trafficking in Wales (2009); lead *Not in my Name* campaign on violence against women with Women's Institutes.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

BIMR CWP Conferences

- 2017 – CWP Working Group (Wilton Park) UK
- 2016 – Guernsey
- 2015 – Gibraltar
- 2014 - Scotland

Biographies

BIMR Conferences

- 2016 – Jersey
- 2015 – Cyprus
- 2014 – Wales
- 2013 – Falkland Islands
- 2002- Scotland

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences

- 2016/2011 – London, UK
- 2013 - Johannesburg, South Africa

Interests:

Political interests include promoting rural economic renewal by working to raise workforce skills, reduce youth unemployment and invest in rural businesses.

Enthusiastic wildlife photographer and keen walker



Rhun ap Iorwerth AM
CPA Wales Branch Chair

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary
- Chair, CPA Wales Branch
- Chair, Cross Party Group: Wales International

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2013

Career Summary:

Journalist and Broadcaster. BBC Journalist 1994-2013, including former Chief Political Correspondent, BBC Wales.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

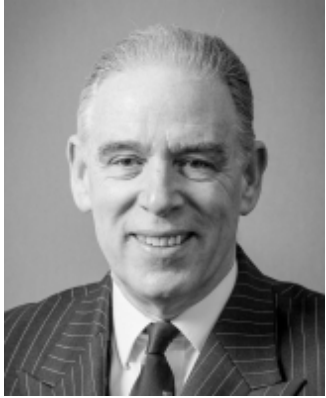
Canada CPA Seminar, Ottawa, 2014

Interests:

Devolution, constitution, health, economic development, language.



Biographies



Mr Andrew Tuggey

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Chief Executive and Secretary, CPA UK
- BIMR Secretariat

Career Summary:

Andrew Tuggey is Chief Executive of the CPA at the Houses of Parliament at Westminster (CPA UK). He is Secretary of the branch and of CPA's British Islands & Mediterranean Region (BIMR).

A former Army officer and FCO defence diplomat, Andrew is highly experienced and skilled in international outreach, parliamentary diplomacy, parliamentary strengthening and capacity-building: CPA UK's programmes have achieved an international reputation for excellence.

Andrew is the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Gwent and was honoured in The Queen's Birthday List 2016 for his work in the CPA and with communities in South East Wales.

Biographies



Miss Helen Haywood

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Deputy Chief Executive, CPA UK
- BIMR Secretariat

Career Summary:

Helen has worked for CPA UK since 1995 in a variety of positions and on all types of bilateral and multilateral activities in Westminster and Overseas.

As Deputy Chief Executive Helen manages business planning and corporate services and leads on CWP.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

- BIMR CWP Conferences Edinburgh 2014, Gibraltar 2015 and Guernsey 2016
- CPC UK 2000 and 2011, Arusha, Tanzania 2009.

Interests:

- Gender equality, women's empowerment and women's participation in decision-making.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of inter-parliamentary engagement

Biographies



Mrs Norma Paris SM
Alderney

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Chair, General Services Committee

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2014

Career Summary:

2015 Chair, Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committee.

Previously director and shareholder of privately owned companies. Firstly in controlled circulation and consumer magazines and latterly in aviation, providing medical evacuation, air taxi and cargo services throughout Europe and North Africa.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

BIMR CWP Conference, Guernsey 2016

Interests:

Long distance walking, mainly UK and Europe. Gardening and literature.

Biographies



Ms Eleni Mavrou MP
Cyprus

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Chairwoman of the House Standing Committee on Internal Affairs.

Member of the House Standing Committee on Defence Affairs and of the House Standing Committee on Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance.

Head of the delegation of the House to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2001

Career Summary:

Civil Engineering [Higher Technological Institute (ATI), Nicosia]

BSc in Politics and International Relations (University of London)

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

62nd CPC, London, Dec. 2016

Interests:

- Youth and gender issues
- European Parliament
- Town planning and municipal affairs

Biographies



Hon Samantha Jane Sacramento MP
Gibraltar

Career Summary:

- October 2001 to December 2003: Legal Affairs Officer Commission for Racial Equality, Cardiff
- May 2004 to December 2011 Barrister, Gibraltar
- December 2011 to present Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar Minister for Housing and Equality
- CWP steering committee member

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

- CPA Regional Conference (BIMR) Falklands, 2012
- CPC Johannesburg, 2013
- CWP Conference Edinburgh, 2014
- CPA Regional Conference (BIMR) Cardiff, 2014
- CPC Cameroon, 2014
- CWP Conference Gibraltar, 2015
- CPA Regional Conference (BIMR) Cyprus, 2015
- CPA Regional Conference (BIMR) Jersey, 2016
- CPC London, 2016

Interests: Current affairs, photography and travel

Biographies



Ms Sabina Guillem
Gibraltar

Career Summary:

Joined Civil Service in 1982, currently Head of Department of Equality

Interests:

- Reading
- Yoga

Biographies



Deputy Rhian Tooley
Guernsey

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Vice President of Health and Social Care

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2016

Career Summary:

Born in Manchester and growing up in Conwy in North Wales, Rhian Tooley graduated from Birmingham University in 1993 and spent several years in teaching and youth work.

After moving to Gloucestershire in 2002 she became an HR Manager and continued in this role until 2010 when, with her husband and three children, she moved to Guernsey.

Three children became five and in 2016, with them at school Rhian decided to enter the political arena and was elected as a People's Deputy for St Peter Port South. She sits as Vice President on the Committee for Health and Social Care and is currently fully engaged in transforming the service offered to the people of Guernsey.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

CPA in Westminster in October 2016

Interests:

In her spare time she is Secretary of the Guernsey Lilies WI, writes fiction and poetry, enjoys sailing and is a keen amateur photographer.



Biographies



Mrs Ann Corlett MHK
Isle of Man

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Member of the House of Keys

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2016

Career Summary:

- Member of Department of Education And Children 2016-Date
- Member of Department of Health And Social Care 2016-Date
- Member of CPA Isle of Man Branch Executive Committee 2016-Date
- Member of CPA CWP Steering Committee 2016-Date
- Member of Tynwald Honours Committee
- Member of Tynwald Management Committee

Biographies



Ms Julie Edge MHK
Isle of Man

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Member of House of Keys.

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2016

Career Summary:

- Member of Department of Infrastructure,
- Member of Emoluments Committee 2016 to date
- Member of Select Committee on Free Train and Tram Travel 2016 to date
- Member of House of Keys Management and Members Standards Committee 2016 to date
- Member of Tynwald Standards and Members Interests Committee 2016 to date

Biographies



Deputy Anne Pryke
Jersey

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Minister for Housing
- Assistant Minister for Education
- Assistant Minister for Department for Infrastructure

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2005

Career Summary:

A former nurse, Deputy Anne Pryke was born in Jersey in 1953. Anne was educated in Jersey, at The Jersey College for Girls before qualifying as a States Registered Nurse at University College Hospital, London. She then undertook Midwifery training at Southmead Hospital, Bristol. Following her training she took up a nursing position at Brook Hospital, Greenwich.

Anne returned to live in to Jersey in 1978, joined the Jersey Hospice Care, which provides palliative care to Islanders suffering from cancer, first as a nurse and then as Home Care Sister, a role she held for over 20 years.

Elected as Deputy of Trinity in 2005 and served on the Health, Education and Social Services Scrutiny Panel and then as Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment. Re-elected in 2008 before her election as Health and Social Services Minister in 2009, until 2014.

Biographies

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

- 2015 CWP regional, Gibraltar
- 2014 CWP regional, Edinburgh
- 2007 Seminar (Ottawa)

Interests:

Anne has always taken a keen interest in Parish life, and lives in the parish of Trinity in Jersey. She was involved in the establishing of Trinity Youth Centre and is a member of the Trinity Parish Retirement Homes Committee. Anne is a founder member of Jersey Brook and the Jersey Youth Advisory Service, Anne is also very actively involved in Church life, holding various positions of responsibility. Her hobbies include swimming and walking.

Biographies



Deputy Judith Martin
Jersey

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Public Accounts Committee
- Privileges and Procedures Committee
- Jersey Police Authority
- Jersey Overseas Aid
- Town District Deputy

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2000

Career Summary:

Have been on most committees in the States of Jersey Health Education and Public Services. Also sat on Scrutiny Panels and for 6 years was Assistant Minister at Health with responsibility for Social Services

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

Edinburgh, Kula Lumpa, Guernsey

Interests:

Sports, reading, music, keeping fit, spending time with the family.

Biographies



Deputy Susie Pinel
Jersey

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Minister for Social Security since 2014

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2011

Career Summary:

Assistant Minister for Social Security 2011-2014

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

2013 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and 33rd CPA Small Branches Conference South Africa

2012 42nd BIMR Annual Conference Edinburgh

Interests:

- Painting and Miniatures Conservator
- Honorary Chairman Brig-y-Don Children's Charity

Biographies



Mrs Lisa Hart
Jersey

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Deputy Greffier of the States – Appointed 2014

Career Summary:

Having returned to Jersey in 1991 after completing a degree in Art and Design worked for 9 years as an Employment Adviser at the Social Security Department.

Joined the States Greffe in 2000 as a Committee Clerk and served a variety of Committees including Housing, Education, Policy and Resources and the first ever Council of Ministers in 2005.

Appointed as Assistant Greffier in 2008 and was responsible for running public engagement initiatives including weekly primary school debates in the States Chamber and the annual CPA sponsored Youth Assembly.

Became Deputy Greffier in May 2014.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

- Cyprus BIMR 2015
- Jersey BIMR 2016

Interests:

Keen gardener also enjoys art and crafts and reading.

Biographies



Hon Deborah Schembri MP
Malta

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Parliamentary Secretary
- Planning and Simplification of Administrative Processes

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2013

Career Summary:

Lawyer

Biographies



Ms Maria Angela Bellizzi MLA
Malta

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Assistant

Biographies



Mrs Nicola Crawford
Northern Ireland

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Parliamentary Engagement Co-Ordinator

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

- BIMR Annual Conference 2014, 2015, 2016
- CWP Annual Conference, Feb 2016
- Annual CPA Conference, Dec 2016

Interests:

Reading and Fitness



Biographies



Ms Gillian Martin MSP
Scotland

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Member of Economy Jobs and Fair Work Committee
- Member of Education and Skills Committee. Convenor of Women in Enterprise Gross Party Group
- C-Convenor of Oil and Gas Cross Party Group
- Vice Convenor of Towns and Town Centres Cross Party Group. Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (Rosanna Cunningham MSP)
- Convenor of the Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Women in Enterprise

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2016

Career Summary:

Former college lecturer in television production, communications company director and media response supervisor for oil and gas companies. Also executive member of Women for Independence 2014-2016

Interests:

Family friendly working, women's participation in the labour market, women in enterprise, energy and fuel poverty, further and higher education, period poverty, socially responsible economic growth potential for small countries.

Biographies



Ms Rhoda Grant MSP
Scotland

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee (Member)
- Labour party spokesperson for Rural Economy and Connectivity
- Members of several cross party groups including carers, human trafficking and men's violence against women and children

Year First Elected to Parliament: 1999, 2007

Career Summary:

- MSP for the Highlands and Islands 1999-2003, 2007-Present
- Shadow Minister for Environment & Rural Affairs (last Parliament)
- Shadow Minister for Enterprise Energy & Tourism
- Shadow Minister for Health and Sport

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

- CPA Scotland Branch cross party visit to Australia & New Zealand
- Scotland Week 2014
- BIMR CWP Conference, Guernsey 2016
- CPA Chairperson's address to Members of the Scottish Parliament 2017

Interests:

- Equalities: Health, Women and Disabilities

Biographies



Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP
United Kingdom

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Shadow Minister for Local Government and Housing

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2005

Career Summary:

Roberta Blackman-Woods has been proud to serve as the Member of Parliament for the City of Durham for over 10 years, having first been elected in 2005.

Since 2011, Roberta has been part of the Shadow Ministerial Communities and Local Government team. She is currently serving as Shadow Local Government and Housing Minister where she is responsible for planning and housing. In this role Roberta is part of both the Shadow DCLG team and the newly formed Shadow Housing Team, which was established due to the importance the Labour Party has put on tackling housing issues.

Prior to entering Parliament she was an academic having worked in social sciences at Newcastle University, as Dean of Social and Labour Studies at Ruskin College, Oxford and as Dean and Professor of Social Policy at the University of Northumbria. She was also a Councillor in Newcastle and Oxford.

Roberta's interests in Parliament reflect the needs of her community and focus on regeneration, international development and education including higher education and growing a knowledge based economy.

Roberta is also a co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary University Group, is on the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK and is Chair of the PLP Northern Group.

Biographies



Baroness Gloria Hooper CMG
United Kingdom

Appointed to House of Lords: 1985

Career Summary:

Baroness Hooper CMG was raised to the peerage in 1985 representing the Conservative Party.

During her Lords Career, she has served as Government Whip as well as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the following departments: Education and Science; Energy; Health.

Baroness Hooper has also served as Deputy Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords.

Baroness Hooper is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UK Branch.

Baroness Hooper has also served on the following Select Committees: Intergovernmental Organisations, EU Sub-Committee A (Economic and Financial Affairs and International Trade), Co-Opted Member.

She has held the post of President of the Greater London Women's Conservative Association. Baroness Hooper is a trained solicitor.

Biographies



Baroness Anita Gale
United Kingdom

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Labour Party Whip, House of Lords

Appointed to House of Lords: 1999

Career Summary:

Anita Gale is a Labour Party whip who speaks from the opposition frontbench on Justice, Equalities, and Welsh matters. Anita joined the House of Lords as a life Peer in 1999.

Anita's background is in the Labour Party and the trade union movement. For the first three years of her working life she was employed as a sewing machinist – starting at the age of 15 in a local clothing factory and working briefly as a shop assistant in between getting married and having her two children. On her return to work she was elected a shop steward for the Tailors and Garment Workers' Union, which she belonged to until 1970.

She left work to study economics and politics full-time at the Pontypridd Technical College and University College Cardiff (1970-1976).

Biographies

Anita has a life-long commitment to equalities issues. After graduating in 1976 she took up the post of Women's Officer of the Wales Labour Party and after eight years was appointed its General Secretary, a post she held until she was made a Peer. From 2004-2009 she was Commissioner for Wales for the Women's National Commission. In 2005, Anita was presented with the Val Feld Welsh Woman of the Year Award - in recognition of her work for women in Wales.

From 2008-2010 served on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Anita has an active involvement with charitable organisations, including being President for the Royal British Legion Treherbert and District Branch, a Patron of the Kidney Wales Foundation and President of the National Association of Old Age Pensioners of Wales. She is the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Parkinson's Disease.

Biographies



Miss Anna Burt
United Kingdom

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

Executive Assistant to Chief Executive and CPA UK Executive Committee

Career Summary:

Anna works closely with the Chief Executive and assists him in his role as Regional Secretary, CPA British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR). This includes organising CPA UK and BIMR input into CPA international and supporting the Deputy Chief Executive in the coordination of the BIMR Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

CPC 2016

Biographies



Jenny Rathbone AM
Wales

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
- Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2011

Career Summary:

20 years in current affairs TV including Producer The Money Programme

Managed award winning Sure Start Programme in North London

Chair, Wales European Programme Monitoring Committee 2013-2015

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

Gibraltar 2014

Interests:

Campaigner for Real Food in schools, canteens and all parts of public sector.

Zero Carbon housing, clean air, modal shift to walking, cycling and integrated public transport Women and children's health and well-being

Biographies



Caroline Jones AM
Wales

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Health
- Assembly Commissioner

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2016

Career Summary:

Trained as a teacher. Worked in Local Government for 7 years. Self-employed. Wrote policies and ran my own department in the Prison Service for Anti-bullying, Suicide Prevention and Race Relations/Cultural Diversity.

Interests:

Light opera singing, member of local gym, buddy for breast cancer, walking our dog, going out for meals with friends, fundraising, community involvement.

Biographies



Rhianon Passmore AM
Wales

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
- Public Accounts Committee

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2016

Career Summary:

Rhianon Passmore is a former teacher and lecturer and was elected Labour and Cooperative Party Assembly Member for Islwyn in 2016. She has experience within the trade union movement, local government and has held the post of Council Cabinet Member for Education. She has led various voluntary organisations and has been awarded for her work within community regeneration.

A long term activist and mum of four, she campaigns against extreme right wing rhetoric.

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, London - December 2016

Interests:

Rhianon has degree in and a passion for music. A busy working mother, relishes spending time with her family.

Biographies



Suzy Davies AM
Wales

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- Shadow Secretary for Social Services, Culture and Welsh Language
- Assembly Commissioner

Year First Elected to Parliament: 2011

Career Summary:

Careers in arts marketing and management; solicitor.

Interests:

Co-production, balanced economy, culture and heritage, emergency Life Saving Skills.

Biographies



Al Davies
National Assembly for Wales

Present Parliamentary Portfolio or Office:

- CPA Wales Branch Secretary

Career Summary

National Assembly for Wales

- 2013 – Present: International Relations Manager.
- 2008- Present: CPA Wales Branch Secretary.
- 2006-2008: Visitor Services Team Manager.

Welsh Government

- 2004 – 2006: Welsh Language Policy Officer.
- 1998-2004 – Private Sector
- 1996-1998 – TEFL Teacher

List of CPA Conferences, Seminars, Visits or Workshops attended:

- BIMR Conferences:
- All Conferences since 2009

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences:

- 2013 – South Africa; 2010 - Kenya

Interests:

Travel, Golf, Skiing, Cycling, Film, Playing Guitar and Cooking.



Speakers

Speakers



Cerys Furlong
Chwarae Teg

Cerys Furlong joined Chwarae Teg as Chief Executive in February 2017 from Learning and Work Institute where she was Director for Wales. Cerys has over ten years experience in the education and skills sectors and is a Governor of ACT Training, Fitzalan High School and Adult Learning Wales.

Cerys was formerly a County Councillor in Cardiff for six years, and has experience of working for a number of AMs and MPs. Cerys is a trustee and Vice Chair of the Bevan Foundation, a think tank that works for social justice in Wales. Cerys is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Chapter Arts Centre. Outside of work, with her business partners Cerys has set up a number of successful businesses and runs a small group of pubs and restaurants in Cardiff.

Speakers



Natasha Davies
Chwarae Teg

Natasha Davies is the Policy and Research Lead at Chwarae Teg. She is responsible for overseeing the delivery of all Chwarae Teg's policy and research work including engagement with the Welsh Government, National Assembly for Wales and UK Parliament, managing research that is carried out both in-house and by external providers and securing new opportunities to influence change.

Natasha has a firm understanding of the policy landscape in Wales, particularly in relation to equality, poverty, education and skills and the economy. She regularly prepares consultations and briefing papers, translating research into policy recommendations for both the UK and Welsh governments.

Speakers



Christine Atkinson
University of South Wales

Christine is Co-Director of the University of South Wales Centre for Excellence in Enterprise and Head of the Women's Entrepreneurship Hub which she founded in 2008. Since that time, she has directed a number of flagship projects including Women's Entrepreneurship in the European Union (WEEU) (an EUR 350,000 project with partners in France and Lithuania), Women Adding Value to the Economy (WAVE) (a £5 million ESF project with partners in Wales: Cardiff University and BAWSO) and is currently Director of Developing Entrepreneurial Women – Changing Horizons (DEWCH) (an EUR 200,000 project with partners in France and Greece). Christine also lectures in Enterprise and Small Business Management; her research interests are in gender and entrepreneurship, female entrepreneurship and women's entrepreneurship education.

Prior to returning to an academic career in 1999, Christine ran her own successful businesses in the North East of England and in South Wales. She has a long standing involvement in supporting women's enterprise and women's business networking, holds the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion and is currently the UK Enterprise Educator of the Year.

Speakers



Jane Hutt AM
Leader of the House and Chief Whip

Educated at the University of Kent, the London School of Economics and Bristol University, Jane is also an Honorary Fellow of University of Wales Institute Cardiff.

In recognition of her role in furthering procurement practice, Jane has been awarded an honorary Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply and a Fellowship of the Procurement Best Practice Academy.

Jane has also been made an honorary member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) for her work in public finance.

Prior to her election to the National Assembly for Wales, Jane was director of Chwarae Teg (Fair Play) and was the Welsh member on the New Opportunities (UK) Fund and was an elected Member of the former South Glamorgan County Council.

Jane is married with 2 children, is a Welsh learner, and lives in Barry.

Having served as Minister for Health and Social Services (1999-2005), Minister for Assembly Business, Children and Equalities (2005-2007) and Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (2007-2009), Jane was appointed Minister for Budget and Business in December 2009. Following re-election to the National Assembly for Wales in May 2011, Jane Hutt was appointed Minister for Finance and Leader of the House and in March 2013 was appointed Minister for Finance. In September 2014, she was appointed Minister for Finance and Government Business. In May 2016, she was appointed Leader of the House and Chief Whip.

Speakers



Sophie and Hannah Pycroft
Spectrum Collections

Sophie:

Sophie has always been a lover of fashion and beauty, she worked and lived in London while studying for a Masters in Fashion Photography at the London College of Fashion, after graduating from Cardiff University with a degree in Journalism. Although living in London provided some great life and career experience, she couldn't wait to get home to Wales. On returning to Wales, work was scarce for a freelance fashion photographer, so it was out of this that Spectrum Collections was created, a love of Wales and a desire to stay at home while working in the creative industries.

Sophie specialises in photography for the business and has lots of creative ideas to push the business forward.

Hannah:

While Sophie was working and living away in London, Hannah graduated with a 1st class honours in Media Production from the Atrium University of South Wales and immediately after she was snapped up to work full time in TV and film. A couple of years after being in the industry Hannah decided to go freelance as she was being inundated with work requests, around the same time that Sophie came home from London, so they each worked freelance to fund the initial start-up costs for the business.

Hannah specialises in web design, digital content, graphic design and video production, so she creates the branding which makes the product stand out so well.

Speakers



Jo Roberts
Fabulous Welshcakes

Jo has worked in the food and drink industry in Wales for over 25 years.

12 years ago she set up Fabulous Welshcakes with the aim of making the most delicious, lightest welshcakes available!

The business has gone from strength to strength and she now employs 15 people and has a successful shop in vibrant Cardiff Bay.

Speakers



Helen Walbey
CITB

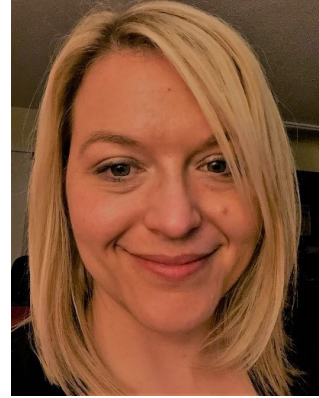
Helen Walbey is Managing Director of Recycle Scooters in Aberdare and was last year appointed to head-up the FSB’s committee responsible for diversity policy”.

Helen has run her own business since 2004, when she started trading bike parts online as a way to make ends meet after her husband had been seriously injured in an accident at work.

Today her company trades parts internationally, and has a number of major contracts for motorcycle dismantling.

Helen’s passion for diversity issues is borne from her own experiences of being a female business-owner in a sector which is dominated by men. She strongly believes that no-one should be prevented from succeeding in businesses as a result of their gender, race, sexuality or disability.

Speakers



Maxine Barrett
HOS Hire

Maxine Barrett has been the Operations Director at HOS Hire since 2007. Working in the construction industry, Maxine manages all aspects of the business including managing a team of employees, and providing technical support to customers.

Maxine leads a team comprised mainly of men in a male dominated industry and has first-hand experience of the difficulties and opportunities women in construction may encounter.

Having recently been presented with the Exemplar Employer Achieving Award by Chwarae Teg as part of the Agile Nation 2 programme, Maxine believes strongly that it is possible to push the boundaries and affect positive change and is keen to encourage more women to take on and develop roles in construction.

Speakers



Laura Toscano
GE Aviation

Laura joined GE Aviation in 2015 as an HR Leader at the Wales site. Laura's role supports c650 employees across three UK locations. The teams include front line engineering, around 40 operational / people managers and Director level Sales, Commercial Finance and Sales support teams.

Prior to joining GE Laura held several roles over 18 years in Human Resources across a variety of sectors including Utilities and Telecommunications. Most recently she was a Management Consultant with Eversheds working on a mix of HR and Legal Strategy projects for their clients.

Laura was educated in Cardiff and studied for her degree in Human Resources at University of South Wales.

Outside of work, she enjoys running and travelling.

Speakers



Gemma Littlejohns
Chwarae Teg

Gemma is one of Chwarae Teg's Employer Partners.

Gemma has been working with SMEs across Wales for the past 5 years, developing working practices to improve the recruitment, retention and progression of women in the Welsh workforce. As a qualified HR and Management consultant, Gemma has supported over 50 employers across Wales to implement improvements which has produced tangible impacts

Speakers



Donna Griffiths
CITB

Donna has been with CITB for the past fourteen years in a variety of roles. Donna was appointed to her most recent role as Partnerships Manager for South Wales in 2016.

Previous roles within CITB included Skills Strategy Manager, External Funding Advisor and Area Finance Manager.

Before joining CITB, Donna was focussed on accountancy becoming a member of CIMA and spent seven years in various finance roles in a number of organisations including Chartered Accountants, Unilever and the Tourism sector.

Given the experience gained in the roles held, Donna is a member of a number of external groups and committees.

Donna was recently asked to become the independent chair of the Construction Wales Innovation Centre (CWIC) Steering Group on behalf of the collaboration partners.

Speakers



Sarah Jones
Salix Engineering Services Lte

Sarah Jones is a chartered civil engineer with 30 years' experience in power and industrial civil structures.

Currently working in the nuclear sector on the programme of new build power stations in the UK. Active in educational programmes and informing the public on how exciting and fulfilling a career in engineering can be.

Will be Chair of ICE Wales Cymru in 2018 and keen to encourage all young people into engineering.



Performers

Performers



Alis Huws
Royal Welsh College of Music and
Drama

Originally from Mid Wales, Alis Huws is studying harp at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama under Caryl Thomas.

Alis started playing at age 10 with internationally renowned harpist Ieuan Jones and has been competing in various competitions and Eisteddfodau ever since, with success both locally and nationally. Prizes include the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Harp Prize 2015 and the 2015 McGrenery prize for chamber music, which she won as part of a duo with flautist Carys Gittins. Alis was awarded her Dip(ABRSM) in Harp Performance in 2012.

An experienced performer, Alis has played at many high profile corporate events and functions, including the St David's Awards, Bio Wales Conference, and Green Growth Conference. Venues include the Wales Millennium Centre and the Senedd. In spring 2016 Alis was chosen to represent RWCMD alongside the Royal Welsh String Soloists at a Royal Gala Event hosted by HRH the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace to an audience including Dame Shirley Bassey and Bryn Terfel.

An avid orchestral player, Alis has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales since 2013, with whom she has performed in prestigious venues across the UK and abroad. In 2015, Alis was chosen to participate in a side-by-side event with Welsh National Opera, and in Summer 2016 she will play as part of Welsh National Youth Opera Orchestra. At RWCMD, Alis has performed with the Symphony Orchestra, Opera Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Wind Orchestra.

Performers



Eilan String Quartet

The Eilan Quartet formed in 2014 after meeting at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. They regularly enjoy performance opportunities ranging from RWCMD Chamber Tuesdays, Cardiff National Museum, Prior Park in Bath and All Saints Church in Penarth.

Eilan have been fortunate enough to receive regular coaching from Catherine Manson, James Boyd and Jonathan Manson from the London Haydn Quartet as part of their Music Works programme.

Other coaching opportunities have included working with Alice Neary, Rachel Roberts, The Elias Quartet and the Allegri Quartet. The quartet has a wide range of repertoire from light-hearted background music to the more serious Haydn, Beethoven, Mendelsohn and Debussy ensuring they have something for every occasion.

The Eilan Quartet are Abigail Askew, Emma Curtis, Lily Rogers and India George.



Conference Management

Conference Management



Janette Iliffe
National Assembly for Wales

Career Summary

Janette has worked for the National Assembly for Wales since January 2005.

She is Executive Assistant to the Assembly Business Directorate senior management. Before moving to this role she was responsible for Internal Communications to Assembly Commission staff, Assembly Members and their Support Staff.

Interests:

Fine dining, cooking, gardening, golf and spending time with her husband, family and two young grandchildren.



CYMDEITHAS
SENEDDOL Y
GYMANWLAD

CYBULLIAD CENEDELAETHOL CYMRU

COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES