

WALES FOR EUROPE 2021-22

Jackie Jones

It has been a good year for Wales for Europe. It was a transformative year too. First, a new Chair was elected at the end of 2021. Wales for Europe is very grateful to Helen Wales, the outstanding outgoing Chair. She led the transition from a feverish campaigning organisation, to one on a secure footing for the future.

Secondly, Wales for Europe has now settled into a forward planning organisation. We have a wonderful part-time organiser, Joe MacDonald, partly financed by EM plus a (nearly complete) reciprocal membership scheme (EM/Wales for Europe) and systems sharing. This collaboration has meant we can now organise more events and activities. But it has taken a long time. We had an away day to plan for the future (with Emma in attendance). Some branches are inactive.

We are working with students at Cardiff University to set up a student society.

We have a monthly bi-lingual (thank you Gareth) newsletter.

Wales for Europe is an umbrella organisation which works in tandem with individual branches who undertake much of the work.

This year our activities across Wales, organised either by Wales for Europe or branches and partners included:

Online speaker events (Jill Evans (former MEP), Andrew Adonis);

ERASMUS + 4 nations and EU event (jointly organised with YEM; Education Minister Jeremy Miles presented for the Welsh Government);

European picnic in the park;

Party conference attendance (Plaid, Cooperative Party (Leeds for Europe), Welsh Labour Women's Conference);

Very successful stall and Brexitometer at Pride Cymru (the First Minister attended);

Brexitometer in North Wales;

Beach art on Swansea beach;

Presence, co-sponsor, speaker and a steward at the Rejoin March.

Upcoming events:

We will hold our AGM in a few days' time;

Derek Vaughan CBE (former MEP for Wales), Welsh Government EU envoy 5 December;

Neil Kinnock, Former Commissioner (Labour Leader) and Anna McMorris MP for Cardiff North who will launch the student society (postponed due to strike action), January/February;

Stella Creasy MP, Chair, Labour Movement for Europe, January/February.

Our finances could be in a better place. It is hoped that we can increase membership numbers now that the reciprocal membership scheme is nearly finalised, and the email systems nearly sorted. A membership drive is on the cards. The terrible consequences of Brexit are becoming more and more obvious to everyone, and opinion polls have swung in our favour. A big shift. More to do to convince political parties to come out in favour of joining the SM and CU.