

Radical future outlined at members meeting

RAS members from authorities across Scotland were treated to an alternative view of Scotland's future at the AGM in Glasgow in October.



Guest speaker Robin McAlpine, Director of the Jimmy Reid Foundation think tank, outlined the Foundation's 'Common Weal' project. Common Weal proposes radical changes to how Scotland works through shifting the focus of the economy, society and democracy.

More about Common Weal and the work of the Jimmy Reid Foundation can be found at www.allofusfirst.org



Robert Hinds (above) talks of some of the pitfalls around Mandatory Consideration. Robin McAlpine (left) captivates the audience below with his vision for a radical new Scotland.

Robert Hinds was given the hard task of following Robin and he pulled it off with his superb session on Mandatory Reconsideration.

New Board

Following elections at the AGM RAS has some fresh(ish) faces on its Board of Directors. Joining for the first time are Stuart Reid from Aberdeen City Council and Richard Shields from Dundee City Council. Lee Oliver from Glasgow City Council rejoins the Board after several years away.

Lee, Stuart and Richard join continuing Directors: Anna Boyle (South Lanarkshire), Robert Hinds (Glasgow), Peter Jamieson (West Lothian), Jane Smith (Inverclyde), and Richard Gass (Glasgow).

Richard continues as Chair of RAS, Jane is Depute Chair and Richard Shields is Treasurer.

Stepping down from the Board this year are John Campbell, Phil Cole, Frances Brown and Pauline Coyle. All will be missed and their valuable input has been much appreciated.



Big thanks also to the Board Members who for different reasons stood down over the year. Brenda was one of the victims of the changes at Stirling, Steven McAvoy moved to Enable and Stephen Devine has gone to the dark side.

...and there's room for more

There's still space for four more Directors to join the Board and we hope to have nominations in time for the January meeting. If you are interested then please get in touch with any of the Board Members or RAS Co-ordinator Graham Kerr on 07584 630746.

Next Members' Meeting
31 January 2014, Motherwell

What do you want?

To be 6', 10 stone and 20 would be my reply if anyone ever asked.

However, no-one ever does. And the same goes for members of RAS. No-one ever asks what you, as a member of RAS, actually wants and expects from your representative body and its Board of Directors.

Well come the New Year that's changing when the first RAS Members' Survey takes place. All survey responders will be entered into a prize draw for an as yet unidentified crappy prize. Look out for more details before the January Members meeting.

Oi! Trainers

WROs are hardly famed for their shy retiring natures but there does seem to be a reluctance to get involved in delivering RAS training. So if you fancy getting involved in training on behalf of RAS please get in touch with RAS Co-ordinator Graham Kerr on 07584 630746.



Calling all tweeters

Twitter is going to be used more and more by RAS to keep in touch with members. There'll be more about that in the New Year but in the meantime get ahead of the game and follow @RASCOT_UK

Dates for your diary

The dates for the 2014 Members Meetings have now been set. Details of the meetings, venues and main topics for discussion are:

31 January 2014, GLO Centre, Motherwell, Sanctions and the Claimant Commitment

4 April 2014, Glasgow, Bedroom Tax/Migrants' Rights

20 June 2014, Perth (tbc), Commissioners/Mandatory Review/Appeals

3 October 2014, Edinburgh, PIP - the first year

Guest speakers are being identified for each meeting and there are plans to bring some focus to the Practitioner and Manager sessions and the Information Exchange. More information on each event will be circulated nearer the time, however please put those dates in your diary NOW!

RAS Board of Directors

Listed below are the current Directors of RAS along with contact email addresses.

If you are interested in joining the Board contact an existing Director or Co-ordinator Graham Kerr at graham.kerr@rascot.co.uk

Annamarie Boyle - Annamarie.Boyle@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk

Richard Gass - Richard.Gass@glasgow.gov.uk

Robert Hinds - robert.hinds@sw.glasgow.gov.uk

Jane Smith - Jane.Smith@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Peter Jamieson - peter.jamieson@westlothian.gov.uk

Stuart Reid - stuartreid@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Richard Shields - richard.shields@dundeeecity.gov.uk

Lee Oliver - lee.oliver@glasgow.gov.uk

Picture of the month BRITAIN ISN'T EATING.



THOUSANDS ARE GOING HUNGRY BECAUSE OF BENEFIT CHANGES.
CALL FOR URGENT ACTION: [WWW.CHURCH-POVERTY.ORG.UK/WTB](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/wtb)



Congratulations to Church Action on Poverty for their poster campaign on food poverty. Find out more about their campaign at: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/news/britainisnteating>

tRAShtalk

an irreverent look at the world of welfare that's absolutely not intended to cause offence

Universal Credit

With news that the introduction of Universal Credit is moving slower than a very slow thing indeed Brassic understands that the DWP is considering a change of tack.

Instead of a geographical roll out the accident prone Department is mulling over a move to an alphabetical one. So after dealing with the Aarons, Alis and Angelas etc we believe it to be true that the DWP is preparing to announce that they fully expect that by 2019 they will have reached Brian (who has apparently been a very naughty boy!).

We hear that...

In line with the ongoing Universal Credit debacle there is apparently no truth in the rumour that IDS is to become IDM (Iain Duncan Mitty) and replace Ben Stiller in the new movie.

The DWP Press Office has however refused to comment on speculation that in order to show his personal commitment to Universal Credit and its lack of progress the Minister is changing his name to ID..... (are we nearly there yet?).....S.

An apology...

(that you won't hear)

"I, Iain Duncan Mitty/are we nearly there yet S, as the Minister responsible for delivering our flagship policy of Universal Credit, may have inadvertently misled Parliament and the wider public when I declared repeatedly and as recently as five minutes ago that the Universal Credit implementation scheme was on time and on budget. When I said it I believed it to be true and was acting on the advice given to me by Sir Arthur Xavier Bonoparte my former (as of four minutes ago) departmental chief of staff who is currently having his fingernails removed by Biggins my butler. More in sorrow than in anger I apologise unreservedly for your failure to join me in believing it to be true too."

"So good, I believe it to be true!" *** IDS**

THE SECRET LIFE OF IAIN DUNCAN
MITTY

IN CINEMAS 2014 2015 2016 2017?



"ON time and ON budget!"
***** DWP

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