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 **ISWNE Conference Cardiff 2026**

**International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors**

 *Cardiff, Wales*

 **July 15–19, 2026**

*Pre-Conference Event: Tuesday, July 14, 2026*

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**Tuesday, July 14, 2026 — Pre-Conference Event: Visit to Caerphilly**

**Location:** Departing from Conference Hotel

**Theme:** Welsh History & Community Journalism

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:30–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast – Conference Hotel
9:20 a.m.	Depart for Cardiff Rail Station
9:45 a.m.	Train departs for Caerphilly
10:00 a.m.	Arrive Caerphilly Rail Station
10:30 a.m.	Welcome to Caerphilly – <i>Richard Gurner</i>
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Caerphilly events including <b>Castle Visit</b>
12:00 noon–8:00 p.m.	Conference Check-In – Conference Hotel
5:00 p.m.	Return to Cardiff
7:00 p.m.	Dinner – Conference Hotel

**Wednesday, July 15, 2026 — Opening Day**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
8:30–11:30 a.m.	<b>ISWNE Board Meeting</b>
9:00 a.m.	<b>Conference Registration Opens</b>
12:00 noon	Lunch – Conference Hotel

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
2:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Opening:</b> Welcome & Housekeeping – <i>Ian Murray, Emma Meese, and ISWNE President</i>
2:30 p.m.	<b>Opening Keynote Address: Welsh Minister (TBC)</b>
3:30 p.m.	Afternoon Coffee/Tea
	<b>Panel Discussion: Searching for support: Is funding from Google and Big Tech a help or a hindrance?</b>
4:00 p.m.	Thomas Barlow - <i>Independent Media Association</i> Gordon Cameron – <i>Ontario Community Newspapers Association</i>
5:00 p.m.	End of Day
7:00 p.m.	Dinner – Conference Hotel
Evening	Free time / <b>Networking</b> Hospitality Suite Open (Venue TBC)

#### **Thursday, July 16, 2026 — Cardiff in Focus**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Visits to <i>Cardiff Castle and Historic Civic Centre Centre</i> .
12:30 p.m.	Return to hotel. ISWNE/ICNN Lunch networking.
	<b>Panel Discussion: Ensuring independents have a voice Chaired by Ian Murray</b>
2:00 p.m.	Lisha Van Nieuwenhove – <i>The Uxbridge Cosmos (TBC)</i>
3pm	Coffee Break
	<b>Panel Discussion: Adopting influencer tactics – chaired by Emma Meese</b>
	Panellists to include:
3.30 p.m.	Ben Black, from <i>Cwmbran Life</i> Ian Fernando from <i>It's on Cardiff</i>

Time	Activity
	<b>Social Media Workshop: How to shoot, edit, and publish short video content on the go</b>
5.30pm	Conference closes.
7:00 p.m.	Dinner – <i>Conference Hotel</i>
Evening	Hospitality Suite (Venue TBC)

### Friday, July 17, 2026 — Cardiff Bay Experience

Time	Activity
7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Welcome – <i>Ian Murray / Emma Meese</i>
	<b>Lost in Translation. Free speech challenges on either side of ‘The Pond’.</b>
9:05 a.m – 10 am.	An overview by Ian Murray of the different approaches to press freedom on either side of the pond. Discussion.
	10 am: <b>Brian Mazza Memorial Scholarship recipient, Amanda Zimmer.</b>
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
	<b>Panel discussion: Government Funding – Essential Support or In League with the Devil? Chaired by Richard Gurner</b>
11:00 a.m.	Is it okay to get direct public funding to support your journalism? Or are you compromising something? Is it better to rely on indirect public subsidy such as public notices? What about a contracted scheme like the UK's Local Democracy Service run by the BBC? Rob Taylor – <i>Wrexham.com</i> Emma Meese – <i>ICNN</i> Will Meredith - <i>GolleySlater</i>
12:30 p.m.	Lunch – Conference Hotel.
2:00 p.m.	<b>Afternoon Schedule: Cardiff Bay</b> Water taxi to Bay, Senedd tour, explore Cardiff Bay waterfront.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Free Time	Return by train to hotel
7:00 p.m.	Evening at leisure – <i>Dinner on your own at hotel or Cardiff Bay.</i>
Evening	Hospitality Suite (Venue TBC)

**Saturday, July 18, 2026 — ISWNE Annual Day**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon	<b>Editorial Critiques</b>
1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–2:30 p.m.	<b>ISWNE AGM</b> – Member discussion on board and future direction
2:30–3:00 p.m.	<b>Greenslade Bursary Presentation</b>
	<b>Roundtable Discussion: What next? Looking beyond print - Chaired by Richard Gurner</b>
	<b>Huck Boyd Research Award presentation.</b>
	<b>Followed by:</b>
3:00–3.30pm p.m.	<b>3.30pm – 5pm. There is a place still for print, and there is still a demand from audiences for it, but how long will that last as print sites consolidate and advertisers continue their move to other platforms. Discussion.</b>
	<i>Will Hayward – The Will Hayward Newsletter</i>
	<i>Kyle Troutman – Cassville Democrat</i>
	Free Time in Cardiff
7:00 p.m.	<b>Gala Dinner</b> – <i>Conference Hotel.</i>
Evening	Hospitality Suite (Venue TBC)

**Sunday, July 19, 2026 — Conference Closing**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	<b>Conference Closes.</b>
10:00 a.m.	Departures

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