



ISWNE CONFERENCE • CAERDYDD/CARDIFF 2026

Holland House Hotel, Caerdydd/Cardiff, Wales
July 15–19, 2026 • Pre-Conference Event: July 14, 2026



*Four days of speakers, panels, workshops and Welsh hospitality
for editors of independent and community newspapers worldwide*

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Pre-Conference Event — Visit to Caerphilly • Theme: Welsh History & Community Journalism

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 Castle visit
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

8:30–11:30 a.m.	ISWNE Board Meeting
9:00 a.m.	Conference Registration Opens
12:00 noon	Lunch – Conference Hotel
2:00 p.m.	Conference Opening: Welcome & Housekeeping <i>Ian Murray</i>
2:10 p.m.	Opening Addresses <i>Emma Meese, and ISWNE President Andy Schotz</i>
2:25 p.m.	Keynote Address (Video) <i>Heledd Fychan, Welsh Government Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport</i>
2:45 p.m.	David Rose <i>Policy and Research Director, Free Speech Union</i>
3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Coffee/Tea
3:45 p.m.	Will Hayward <i>The Will Hayward Newsletter</i>
4:15 p.m.	Discussion: Searching for Support Is funding from Google and Big Tech a help or a hindrance? <i>Chair: Emma Meese</i> • Thomas Barlow – Independent Media Association • Gordon Cameron – Ontario Community Newspaper Association
5:00 p.m.	End of Day
7:00 p.m.	Dinner – Conference Hotel
Evening	<i>Free time / Networking – Hospitality Suite open at hotel</i>

Thursday, July 16, 2026

7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Visits to Cardiff Castle and Historic Civic Centre
12:30 p.m.	Return to hotel — ISWNE / ICNN Lunch networking
2:00 p.m.	Joint Afternoon Sessions with ICNN and ISWNE Delegates <i>Supported by the Helen and Gary Sosniecki Scholarship</i> Welcome and introductions: Ian Murray
	Panel: Ensuring Independents Have a Voice <i>Chaired by Ian Murray</i> • Molly McRoberts – South Dakota News Media Association • Lisha Van Nieuwenhoven – Ontario Community Newspapers Association • Richard Gurner – Independent Community News Network
3:00 p.m.	Coffee Break
3:20 p.m.	Future Journalism Champions Ian Murray in discussion with University of Cardiff Journalism students
3:40 p.m.	Panel: Adopting Influencer Tactics <i>Chaired by Emma Meese</i> • Ben Black – Cwmbran Life • Ken Garner – Mount Ayr Record News • Ian Fernando – Independent Journalist
	Social Media Workshop How to shoot, edit and publish short video on the go — Emma Meese
5:30 p.m.	Conference closes for the day — networking with ICNN members continues
7:00 p.m.	Dinner – Conference Hotel
Evening	<i>Hospitality Suite at Hotel</i>



Friday, July 17, 2026

7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Welcome — Ian Murray / Emma Meese “Lost in Translation” — Free speech challenges on either side of ‘The Pond’ Ian Murray: an overview of press-freedom approaches on either side of the pond <i>Panel / audience discussion:</i> • Andy Schotz – Frederick News Post / ISWNE President • Jeff Gaye – Respect News
10:00 a.m.	Brian Mazza Memorial Scholarship <i>Recipient presentation — Amanda Zimmer</i>
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break

11:00 a.m.	Panel: Government Funding — Essential Support or In League with the Devil? Is it okay to get direct public funding to support your journalism, or does it compromise something? <i>Chaired by Richard Gurner</i> • Rob Taylor – Wrexham.com • Emma Meese – ICNN • Jason Gibbins – BBC • Dr Andy Williams – Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Culture
12:30 p.m.	Lunch – Conference Hotel
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon: Cardiff Bay Water taxi to the Bay, Senedd tour, and explore the Cardiff Bay waterfront <i>Free time — return by train to hotel</i>
7:00 p.m.	Evening at leisure — dinner on your own at the hotel or in Cardiff Bay
Evening	<i>Hospitality Suite at hotel</i>

Saturday, July 18, 2026

7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m.	Editorial Critiques
1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–2:30 p.m.	ISWNE AGM Member discussion on board and future direction
2:30–3:00 p.m.	Greenslade Bursary Presentation
3:00–3:30 p.m.	Huck Boyd Research Award Presentation
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Roundtable: What Next? Looking Beyond Print <i>Chaired by Richard Gurner</i> There is still a place — and audience demand — for print, but how long will that last as print sites consolidate and advertisers move to other platforms? • Kyle Troutman – Cassville Democrat • Lauren Crosby Medicott – Freelance Journalist
4:30 p.m.	The Future's Rosy Quick-fire winners from the conference — ISWNE members and guests share tips, advice and success stories
5:30 p.m.	Conference Closes — free time in Cardiff
7:00 p.m.	Gala Dinner – Conference Hotel <i>Hospitality Suite at hotel</i>

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Conference Closing

7:00–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Farewells
10:00 a.m.	Departures

Diolch yn fawr — Thank you for joining us in Cardiff!



Croeso i Gymru

Welcome to Wales