

Editorial Changes at Scottish Labour History

With effect from publication of this 59th edition of Scottish Labour History, co-editors Gregor Gall and Jim Phillips have decided to step down from their long tenure.

Gregor, successively professor of industrial relations at the universities of Stirling, Hertford and Bradford, now holds post as an Affiliated Research Associate at the University of Glasgow, and was formerly Director of the Jimmy Reid Foundation and editor of Scottish Left Review. A prolific commentator, and author and editor of over twenty books, he is currently preparing 'Scarlet Scotland: the paradox of radicalism' for publication in 2026.

Jim Phillips, Professor of Economic and Social History at the University of Glasgow, is widely recognised as the pre-eminent historian of the Scottish coalfield communities and a leading analyst of the origins and impacts of deindustrialisation. His 'Coalfield Justice', published in 2024, is reviewed elsewhere in this journal, which also carries his account, with Watty Watson, of miners victimised in the 1984-85 strike.

Gregor joined Scottish Labour History's then Editorial Collective in 2008, becoming editor in 2013, and was joined by Jim as co-editor in 2015. Both Gregor and Jim remain members of the Committee of the Scottish Labour History Society. At its General Meeting in May 2024, the Society elected Ian Gasse, Robert Laurie and Stewart Maclennan to join an editorial team managing transition.

The General Meeting also saw the withdrawal from office of the Society's redoubtable Secretary of seven years, Carolyn McAllister, also a vital support in the production of Scottish Labour History. We wish her well and hope to welcome her return to 'active service' for the Society. Our new Secretary is Gordon Scobie.

We offer below an appreciation of Ian Gasse, also essential to the production of Scottish Labour History for many years, whose sudden death on 4 September 2024 is a bitter loss hard to bear and hard to replace.

2025 will see the 60th edition of Scottish Labour History since its foundation in 1969, and it is intended to feature the reflections of its distinguished editors - Hamish Fraser, Ian S Wood, Arthur McIvor, Eleanor Gordon, Rob Duncan, Gregor Gall and Jim Phillips - on its development over 56 years of publication.