

Press Release – For immediate release

Leeks from the Back Benches

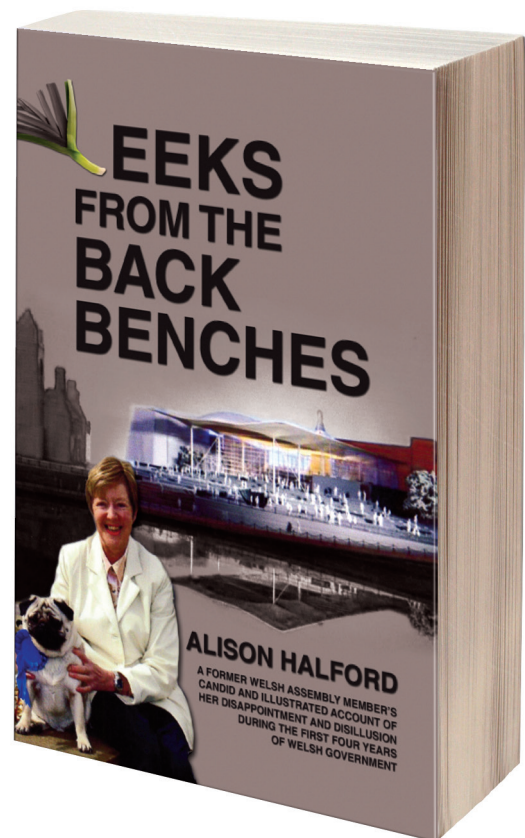
Alison Halford

DESCRIBED IN THE FOREWORD by Swasie Turner MBE as an inspirational book whose parliamentary revelations make ‘fascinating and most interesting reading’, *Leeks from the Back Benches* offers a candid and intimate recollection of the author’s experiences at the cutting edge of Welsh Assembly life.

Alison Halford was the most senior policewoman in the United Kingdom when she was forced into retirement, her reputation in ruins after a viciously defended discrimination battle, which ended at the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. After moving into the even more challenging world of Welsh politics, Halford became a member of the North Wales Police Authority, although her presence was deeply resented after she uncovered injustices in the complaints-procedure. Alison moved on to become one of the first 60 Assembly Members in the newly devolved Welsh Assembly Government, as the Assembly Member for Delyn.

In the book, the author gives a graphic account of how she reached Cardiff, and a fresh perspective on Welsh Labour’s first four years of power – a struggle due to the party’s tiny majority. At the same time, she exposes the unjust treatment of a senior civilian employee who is suspended and subject to rank discrimination when she loses the trust of Chief Officers.

Leeks from the Back Benches is a highly personal account of a political career, written almost exclusively from the author’s diaries. It is also, however, a fascinating look at the world of Welsh politics, exploring issues such as the secretive world of the Police Authority, the persistent North-South divide, governmental waste, and, above all, providing a real insight into the day-to-day activities of those who run the country.



Leeks from the Back Benches

By Alison Halford

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