

# Chester World Development Forum

*Encouraging Local Action for a Fairer World*



Tues 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

*Starting our 25<sup>th</sup> Year!*

*CWDF – pin-board glimpses of our first 25 years*



## *CWDF group members/ supporters*

1993

- Amnesty International
- The Bahai's
  - CAFOD
- Campaign Against Arms Trade
  - Cheshire West Euro Office
- Chester & District Friends of the Earth
  - Christian Aid
- Clwyd Latin American Human Rights Group
  - Diocese of Chester JADE Group
- Diocese of Shrewsbury J&P Commission
  - Greenpeace
  - Help International
    - Karuna Trust
      - Oxfam
      - RESULTS
    - Society of Friends
  - St Columba's 3<sup>rd</sup> World Group
    - Tools for Self Reliance
      - Traidcraft
        - UNA
        - UNICEF
        - VSO

2016-17

- Amnesty International Chester & Wrexham
- And Albert
- CDEC – Developing Global Learning
- Cheshire Asian & Minority Communities Council
- Chester Baha'i Community
- Chester CAFOD Support Group
- Chester Christian Aid Committee
- Chester CND
- Chester & District Friends of the Earth
- Chester Fair Trading
- Chester Friends of Palestine
- Chester Humanists
- Chester Quaker Meeting
- Holy Trinity Blacon One World Group
- Hooton & Ellesmere Port RC Church J&P Group
- Jubilee Debt Campaign
- Univ of Chester, Geography & International Development
- VSO Cheshire Supporter Group
- Wesley Church Centre
- Wirral Trade Justice Group

## **1999-2000: CWDF's millennium soul-searching ...**

- *An ambitious programme for One World Week (October 1999) had mixed results, raising major questions about CWDF's future balance of effort*
  - *An "Options Paper" was produced for discussion in Jan 2000 ....*

**Option 1:** Group itself to wind-up, confident in the ability of its constituent members to sustain the "development message"

**Option 2:** Group to continue, primarily for networking and information exchange – "action of the ground" undertaken by member groups

**Option 3:** In addition to networking & information exchange, Group would give each year give strong practical support to a particular campaign being run by one of its members

**Option 4:** Group to become more pro-active, promoting its own branded programmes – and exploring all means of enabling it to take on part-time paid assistance for running these programmes

### **1999-2000: CWDF's millennium soul-searching ...**

**The conclusion:** pursue Option 2 ½ ....

- Prime purpose is to provide useful means of networking between established and emerging groups and interested individuals
- Provide active encouragement and assistance for others organising events that take the development message to a wider audience
- Continue with bi-monthly networking meetings – mainly domestic, though visiting speakers always welcome. ("Crowd-pulling" speakers will be treated to well-publicised public meetings)
- Details of these arrangements to be worked out by a planning group – paving the way for an ongoing steering group/ committee

*For interest, the planning group were: Peter Byrne, Mike French, Gerald Grant, Margaret Lord, Bernard Payne, Kath Stephenson, Heather Swainston*

### **2016 – 17: Further soul-searching – how to sustain our membership?**

- University of Chester student project **CWDF Sustainable Futures** -presentation to the CWDF AGM May 2017
  - *The task was to assist CWDF in establishing how to raise its profile among the wider public in and around Chester, and how to attract new members, particularly younger people, to ensure its sustainability.*
    - *Their report had three key recommendations:*
      1. Make connections with the University of Chester's International Development Society
      2. Increase the presence and effective use of **social media**
      3. Focus on the issues and activities that appeal to a younger audience

### **Key features over those 25 years ...**



- Links with the elected Chester MP (of whichever party)  
*Gyles Brandreth, Christine Russell, Stephen Mosley, Chris Matheson*
- Links with the University  
*Global Perspectives Programme, and then the Dept of Geography & International Development*
- Heather's work in establishing and running CDEC  
*Nurturing the interest of young people*
- Tying in with the campaigns of key NGOs and pressure groups  
*Debt Cancellation, 0.7% target for Overseas Aid, Make Poverty History, One World Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, Trade Justice, Climate Justice*
- And, not least, the ongoing support of a diverse range of local groups and individuals who together make up the Forum

### **Key features of the next 25 years ...**



Maybe impossible to predict these,  
-but can we organise ourselves to live up to  
our by-line:

**Encouraging Local Action for a Fairer World**