

# CHESTER WORLD DEVELOPMENT FORUM

## REPORT ON 2006-7 ACTIVITIES



Since our last AGM, CWDF has not participated in any major national rallies, having taken the decision to stage local events supporting the objectives of those campaigns.

We marked the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** Edinburgh rally/ march of July 2005 with a weekend of events in Chester in early July 2006:

- A stimulating Friday evening talk and discussion with Alison Marshall of BOND (the umbrella organisation for development NGOs).
- A lively Saturday morning drumming session with excellent turnout, in front of Chester Cathedral (gorgeous weather!).
- Follow-up appearance in the Chester Lord Mayor's Parade, in association with the Jubilee



- Further display and drumming session in front of Chester Cathedral in

September to mark "The Beat Goes On" campaign (horrendous downpour!).



We have continued to support the monthly "Politika" nights at Alexander's Jazz Bar.

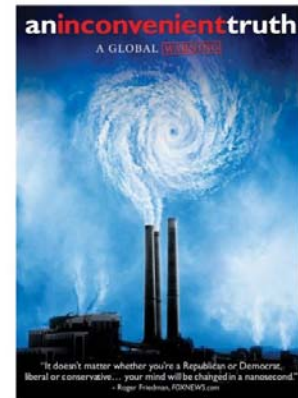
CWDF continues its objective of increasing its profile by actively recruiting individuals who will publicise and inform others of our events and activities.

We now have representation on the City Council-sponsored Steering Group on Fair Trade - individual CWDF members were already on the Steering Group but representing their other organisations. CWDF had written to the City Council concerning its lack of consistency in serving Fair Trade tea and coffee at all its meetings - which was a commitment given before the City was granted Fair Trade status. The Steering Group hopes to raise the profile of Fair Trade throughout the year, not confined to Fair Trade Fortnight.



One World Week in October 2006 was marked by 3 music events involving many young local bands variously appearing at Telford's, Alexander's and the University. Our thanks go to Heather Lannin for her energy and enterprise surrounding these events.

For the last 6 months we have consciously pursued the issue of climate change and its implications for the aims of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**. We are actively planning a major event in autumn 2007 on climate change, in conjunction with the University of Chester. During the year we have established good links with the Chaplaincy and with the Department of Geography and Development Studies. On 29 June we have a showing of Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" at Holy Trinity Parish Centre in Blacon, arranged in conjunction with the Holy Trinity 3<sup>rd</sup> World Group and Christian Aid. It will include displays about CRed - the Chester Carbon Reduction programme which is being run jointly between the University and the City Council.



In recent weeks CWDF members and many others have maintained pressure on the authorities in the Philippines regarding the serious threats to the safety of Romy Tiongco, our former chairman who stood for Mayor in his local community of Damulog in the Philippines. Our thanks to Peter Byrne for co-ordinating our efforts in conjunction with Peter Linsey of the Jubilee Debt Campaign. Our letter campaign to the Philippine President and their Ambassador to the UK helped secure police protection for Romy and his associates during their election campaign.



STOP PRESS: The Damulog elections were held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, and we've heard that Romy and his Vice-Mayoral candidate were duly elected, though his other party candidates were less successful. Sadly, the security issues remain as threatening as ever, so more letter-writing on our part may be needed.

We remain very grateful to Heather and all at CDEC for continued use of CDEC accommodation for our meetings and for their encouragement. For our part, we are delighted that CDEC continues to thrive, and that all the hard work by the staff and volunteers is seen to be rewarded in so many ways. We hope that this summer's move to larger floor space at the other end of the Campbell block will work out well.

Finally, can we mention that CWDF would benefit greatly if additional members could offer themselves for service on the Committee. The Committee meets monthly; there is much to do, and offers to undertake particular tasks would be very helpful - e.g. press officer, website person.

Kath Stephenson  
Bernard Payne  
17 May 2007