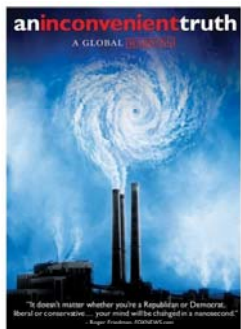


CHESTER WORLD DEVELOPMENT FORUM

REPORT ON 2007-8 ACTIVITIES



CLIMATE CHANGE has become the major challenge facing International Development activists. All major NGOs (non-government organisations) have made climate change their main campaign issue, linking it with eradication of poverty. This increasing emphasis on climate change has been reflected in CWDF's own activities this year:



- **On 29th June 2007** we showed Al Gore's Oscar-winning film "An Inconvenient Truth" at a well-attended event at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Blacon.
- **On 28th November 2007** we held a big event at the University of Chester in conjunction with the Department of Geography and International Development

Studies, and chaired by Prof Roy Alexander. A combination of display stalls, short presentations and a notable keynote speaker proved an interesting mix and attracted a number of newcomers. Ann Pettifor, Campaign Director of Operation Noah (and past Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign) gave a challenging address on the economic factors underlying and contributing to climate change. The event was judged a real success; we are delighted to be working with the University and have hopes of future collaborative events.



- **On 10th April 2008** five CWDF members lobbied Christine Russell MP on the Climate Change Bill now before Parliament, seeking her support for strengthening the Bill in a number of important respects.

However, CWDF participated in a range of other activities and meetings:

- **On 7th July 2007** we took part in the Chester Live Earth Music festival - linked to Al Gore's Global Live Earth Day - including local artists Ruth Pollard and Black Bag. Thanks to Heather Lannin of CWDF and music promoters Chris Ingram and Ian Lampart.
- **On 21st July 2007** we participated in Chester Lord Mayor's Parade, supporting the Jubilee Debt Campaign and marching along with the City Council's Fairtrade City banners.
- **On 8th September 2007** at Wesley Methodist Church Hall, we staged displays showcasing the organisations who support the Forum's aims in "Encouraging Local Action for a Fairer World", alongside our running the coffee bar as a fundraiser. Members of the public hopefully learnt about us, and we as members also had the interesting experience of learning more about the activities of our different groups.
- **One World Week October 2007** We were involved with "Oxjam" Music Event at Alexander's. Proceeds went to Oxfam.



ROMY TIONGCO: We continue to watch with interest the progress being made by Romy Tiongco who was elected as Mayor of Damulog in the Philippines. Some of us were able to meet Romy on his visit to Cheshire in December-January.

FORUM MEETINGS: At our own regular bi-monthly Forum meetings we have enjoyed some very interesting talks:

- **Christine Russell MP** (October 2007) on her visits to Botswana, Libya, and Pakistan.
- **CDEC** (November 2007) Heather Swainston and her staff gave a highly illuminating account of their wide-ranging work, CDEC continuing to flourish in their new home and under Heather's dedicated leadership.
- **Alessandro Moccuzzi**, Corporate and Communications Manager at DfID on "Global Perspectives in Development" (January 2008). He gave us valuable insights into the changing role of DfID and its predecessors over the years.
- **Chris Worrall**, Campaign Officer for Oxfam in the NW, on the work of Oxfam (March 2008).

FAIRTRADE continues to be a big area of activity for CWDF. We are represented on the City's Fairtrade Steering Group. This year, a number of Forum members took part in Fairtrade Fortnight events including entering a team in the "Daffodil Race" - you get noticed, including in the press, if you're prepared to do something daft! Our major contribution to Fairtrade Fortnight was the showing of "Black Gold", the film about the international coffee trade, in the Town Hall. It was well attended, attracting people who have not visited our events before.

BEEN THERE, GOT THE T-SHIRT! Your Committee felt it would be good to promote CWDF "as a brand", so as well as our main banner we have a supply of T-shirts, nicely printed with our logo and slogan.



HAVE LAPTOP & PROJECTOR, WILL LEND! We were very pleased to receive a grant of £800 from the City Council which we topped-up from our own funds to buy a laptop computer plus LCD projector, speakers and screen for use in presentations, DVD showings, as well as for internal uses like minute-taking. This equipment is available for loan by member groups and supporters for a small charge. It has already been used for events put on by the "Chester Transit" group, which is promoting Chester's role in the Transition Towns movement - local means of getting beyond oil-dependence.

ONWARDS! So this past year has offered CWDF some useful and interesting opportunities; next year will present new challenges and, hopefully, new opportunities.

Kath Stephenson
Bernard Payne
May 2008