

Chester World Development Forum



Minutes of Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2016 in The Unity Centre

- 1 **Welcome:** Terry Green chaired the meeting
Present: Terry Green (Chair), Lindsay Cussons (Baha'i), Gerald Grant, Terry Walsh (CND), Brian and Katy Rowe (Christian Aid and CFoP), Vicki Jenner, Pam Price (Church Action on Poverty), Tony Walsh (Ellesmere Port CAFOD Group), Ann McCarthy (CAFOD and Christian Aid), Bernard Payne (St Columba's Third World Group), Peter Hobson (Amnesty International), Sue Bownas (CAFOD), Matthew Jessop (Chester Quakers), John Tacon, Heather Lannin and Linda Shuttleworth
Apologies: Gill Miller (University of Chester Dept of Geog and International Development), Prue Wendt, Peter Byrne, Tom Ormiston (CAFOD), Margaret Lord (Baha'i) and Kath Stephenson

BP informed the Forum about one of our long standing members, Prue Wendt, who is no longer able to attend meetings. Prue, for many years, represented the Chester UNA Association and kept the Forum informed of events and issues. BP thanked Prue on behalf of the Forum for all her support of CWDF over many years and sent her our very best wishes. Prue and her husband Robin will continue to receive our mailings

2 **Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:**

- Forum Wednesday 21st September: Only matter arising concerned the signing of cards for political prisoners - an Amnesty International event on Dec 5th. Please see diary for details. As CWDF's next committee meeting is on Dec 5th we will be signing cards then
- Meeting with Stephen Twigg MP, Friday 7th October - note in preparation which will go out in next mailing
- Committee 31st October 2016: Issues discussed included CWDF's ability to use Facebook and Twitter as a means of publicising events; informing ourselves about refugee issue with reference to Chester; efforts to recruit new members, particularly younger members; Student Sustainability Project - exploring whether students could complete a project for us as part of their course; an update from JT on fracking in Ryedale, Lancashire and the part Barclays are playing in this. JT and TG have been to visit manager at Barclays in Chester with letter protesting that Barclays support of the company that are about to start the fracking is not in keeping with Barclays "corporate image". Have received a standard reply that Barclays "could not comment further because of "client confidentiality". Most unsatisfactory reply

3 **Administration matters:**

- Finance: Our latest balance is £368.93
- BP mentioned Facebook and Twitter and how useful it would be for advertising events. This is possibly something students can help with. HL mentioned that she does put things on Facebook. For instance she advertised tonight's meeting.
- Membership and email: Now most members receive information by email which saves photocopying and postage

4 Open discussion: Reflections on the key points emerging from the Chris Matheson and Stephen Twigg sessions, and the implications for the Forum's future activities and priorities.
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The following are the key points discussed at committee on 31.10.16 re future campaigns/activities

Active or passive campaigning?

- Tax evasion
- Climate change, fracking update from JT
- Food for all
- Fairtrade. Heather Swainston and Fairtrade initiative. Idea to get information from producers who have been to Chester which will tell us how fair trade benefitted them. "Tell the story". How can we use that material? JT will have meeting with HS when project developed a little further. Possibly DVD/ Skype?
- SDGs – keep up to date. TG will try and keep up with specific SDGs through various means eg NGOs
- Refugee issue and is there something we can do? Thinking of action plus speakers.
- Post – Brexit: issues of country going inward looking???? 38 degrees have put forward peoples' agenda. Is this something the Forum should look at?

Some thoughts from our constituent members:

- Keep up to date with such trade negotiations as CETA and TTIP
- Good to have speakers but sometimes need more open meetings "to take stock" of campaigns
- Project from HS re Fairtrade - links in with SDGs.
- Finding connections between the issues – campaigns can overlap
- Nuclear issue/ energy supplies/ Arms trade/armed forces recruitment in schools
- Use of aid money? Follows on from Stephen Twigg's talk on changes within DfID
- Inform ourselves and then take action
- Possibility of having evening/Sat pm speaker on issue of "Food for All". Question of GM foods?
- Idea from GM – organise trip to Geneva – study tour of World Organisations.
- Refugee issue – can we help? Chantelle who runs Unity Centre could speak to us. She has some expertise on the issue. Maybe this is more of a domestic issue and beyond our remit? Other organisations likely to be dealing with this.
- Social Justice and inequalities – linked to SDGs
- Shared information from member groups on their individual campaigns or conferences their group have attended. Could then be shared more widely on website/email/diary.
- CWDF a unique organisation and important to remind ourselves of what we are about ie "promoting local action for a fairer world". Are we predominantly a campaigning organisation?

5 **Around the Table:**

Updates from our members on current activities, events and issues

Heather Lannin's bike ride: to raise money for Sierra Leone. Very successful (see attached picture)

HL: Recommended film –"Queen of Katwe"

HL: Request for volunteers to collect food from Pret a Manger in Cheshire Oaks and take to homeless shelter. Contact HL

SB: Has written letter to Chris Matheson re climate change – asking people to sign tonight. New conference happening in Morocco soon. Paris Agreement not yet ratified by UK

PH: Ecumenical Accompaniers programme in Palestine. Accompaniers act as witnesses and engage with Palestinians and Israelis to promote peacemaking. Peter's son is going and will be happy to speak to Forum about his experiences

- LC: "Islam and the West" – talk in Gladstone Library, Hawarden on 1st Dec at 7pm
 PP: Commented on the increase in food aid from Church Action on Poverty.
 KR: Tues 6th Dec at 7.30, Chester Friends of Palestine showing film "Open Bethlehem" in Garden Lane Uniting Church.
 Also carol singing in city centre using carols with alternative words
 JT: multinational mining company – polluting last river with drinkable water.
 Government refused but was taken to court.
 TW: Cafod quiz on 25th Nov. 7.30 in Our Lady's, Ellesmere Port. Last quiz of year
 Dominican Sister who has been working in Jordan with refugees coming to speak to CAFOD group on 11th Dec – 6.30

6 Arrangements for next Forum and Forum-supported meetings:

- **Thursday 17th November: "How Change Happens"** With Oxfam's Duncan Green, 7.30pm in Best Building, University of Chester, arranged by the Department of Geography and International Development.
- **Tuesday 17th January 2017: CWDF Forum** 6.45 for 7.00pm at The Unity Centre. Speaker TBC

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Fundraiser bikes from Liverpool to Grimsby to help children of Sierra Leone

Docks finish for cyclist's charity challenge



I'VE MADE IT! Heather Lannin completing her dockside to dockside charity bike ride. Submitted picture

GRIMSBY Docks was the finish line for a charity cyclist following a three-day ride.

Heather Lannin, a registered nurse from Chester, chose Grimsby Docks as her finishing destination following a charity cycle ride.

The 153-mile journey saw her leave The Port of Liverpool on Monday, September 19, where she made her way to Grimsby Docks to finish the ride.

She said: "I'd heard of coast to coast charity cycles but I'd never heard of dockside to dockside. I wanted to do something different so I thought why not."

The cycle was in aid of children living in poverty in Sierra Leone, a place Heather has made several self-funded humanitarian visits to. "I have known these children since 2003. When I first met them they were only small, they're teenagers now. Some of them are still in the early stages of education even though they are teens. Their education

across America and Canada.

Heather said: "When I was struggling, I just kept thinking of Guy and how if he could cycle all those miles with around 200,00ft of ascent included in that race, then I could definitely complete this challenge."

Heather has been known to compete in sporting charity challenges over the years, including the London Marathon.

"Although exhausted and sore, I felt elated when I finally reached Grimsby Docks. I had met my own challenge. It was a great feeling doing it for myself and for the children," Heather added.

All donations raised will go towards repairing damaged classrooms and providing children in Sierra Leone with an education. To donate, visit Heather's fundraising site: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/heather-lannin-5>

• ON THE WEB: More charity news at www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/charities

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has been interrupted by war and more recently by the Ebola crisis. These children have seen their parents brutally murdered, they've seen sights we could not even begin to imagine and wouldn't want too," Heather added.

The trail took Heather through the Pennines where she took a wrong turn and became lost in the wilderness.

She said: "I am so grateful to the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue. All I had to do was send them a text and they knew my exact grid reference instantly. They responded so quickly and soon put me back on track. Other than that, there were no other problems and there wasn't a single drop of rain."

Heather's inspiration for the charity ride was Lincolnshire's own Guy Martin, who competed in the Tour Divide challenge. The 2,700-mile ride took Guy

In Brief

Hop on board for travel updates
 A TRANSPORT surgery is being held for members of the public to raise issues, make comments or just pick up a timetable.
 Bus and rail travellers in North East Lincolnshire are invited to the surgery tomorrow, which is taking place onboard 'Bus It' - a mobile information bus.
 The event is free and takes place between 9am and 4pm at the Riverhead, Grimsby.
 The regular surgery is one of a number of events held throughout the year organised by specialist transport charity The City of Hull & Humbershire Environment Forum and delivered in partnership with North East Lincolnshire Council and local transport providers.
 The transport surgeries provide a mechanism for passengers, operators and the council to come together to improve the quality of public transport within North East Lincolnshire.

Stepping up in aid of dog rescue organisation - cleethorpespeople.co.uk

Online 24/7 and in print every Wednesday
Cleethorpes People
cleethorpespeople.co.uk
 facebook.com/cleethorpespeople twitter.com/deepeople

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SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS
 TOUR • FLY • CRUISE • EXPLORE
SHEARINGS