



Minutes of the Forum meeting held Tuesday 11 July 2017 in The Unity Centre

*Meeting preceded by talk from retired consultant John Williams,
"Three Jumbos Crash in a Day". See separate note.*

1 **Welcome:** Terry Green chaired the meeting

Present: Terry Green, Bernard Payne (St Columba's Third World Group), John Tacon, Vicki Jenner, Margaret Lord and Lindsay Cussons (Baha'i), Gerald Grant, Katy Rowe (Christian Aid and Chester Friends of Palestine), Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine), Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Mark Rideal (Chester CND), Pam Price (Church Action on Poverty, Tom Ormiston and Tony Walsh (Ellesmere Port Justice and Peace), Brian and Marilyn Holroyd (Christian Aid), Gill Miller (University of Chester), Heather Swainston (Cheshire Development Education Centre), Ann McCarthy (CAFOD and Christian Aid), Elizabeth Bott (Chester Asian Council) and Linda Shuttleworth

Apologies: Sue Bownas, Heather Lannin and Kath Stephenson

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

- Forum meeting (AGM) 9th May 2017 (*previously circulated*)
Any matters arising will be covered in the agenda
- Re Committee meeting held on 20th June 2017 – the main issues discussed were the recommendations made in the students' reports of CWDF Sustainable Futures and the planning of future meetings.

3 **"CWDF Sustainable Futures":** Consideration of the recommendations made in the Chester students' project report: The main recommendations were for CWDF to use social media as a way of advertising events and to update the website. TG has been in touch with Chester Voluntary Association who may be able to help with "training" in social media usage. VJ and BP have also been in touch with chair of the International Development group at University. It may be possible to co-ordinate some events/actions.

Points made by members present:

HS suggested Forum should not get "hung up" on getting younger people as paid-up members but aim to get them involved in campaign actions. Utilise young people's ideas for actions.

Members consider the CWDF Diary very useful – it gives lots of events but Facebook could be even more useful for promoting events.

GM commented that Forum shouldn't depend too much on the university because students only there for 2 terms. The International Development Group at University set their programme in November

HS suggested using Storyhouse – it attracts lots of different age groups. Also –what about contacting Theatre in the Quarter and Matt Baker? They recently put on the play "The Lost Boy" about the refugee issue. Students may join us.

Re advertising events – need to get member organisations to send BP details of events well in advance.

Is there a national campaign that we could link into? Look into different NGOs campaigns for the coming year.

4 Financial update. JT, Treasurer, reported that there is £469.77 in bank and the “tin” contains £2.52

5 Future events and activities, with reference to:

- Latest Diary listing: 10th Oct at 7.30 in the Best Building at the University of Chester’s Parkgate Road campus - William Tacon (John Tacon’s brother) who works for the Bhutan Foundation will give a talk on “The Challenges of developing business in Bhutan”. All welcome
- Oct 3rd – Meet Chris Matheson, Chester’s MP, and get an update on International Development issues at government level. This meeting will be held at the university and CWDF hopes to link in with the International Development Society at university.

Reports from around the table:

KR: Introduced Christian Aid’s latest campaign “The Big Shift”.

The biggest banks in the UK, the ones that most of us rely upon to look after our money, are not using that money to look after our earth, our shared home.

Instead they continue to finance the extraction and burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, all of which produce carbon pollution. This in turn fuels climate change, threatening the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world and putting all of our futures at risk.

You can write to your bank asking that they join “The Big Shift” away from investing in fossil fuels and into clean energy.

KR also has some stickers on which to write messages and these will be attached to a giant piggy bank poster named Prudence which will be presented to the banks as a message of support for the Big Shift.

HS: CDEC to close as an organisation after 20 years in Chester. The lease has run out on the building. HS will continue to do free lance work in the field of development education

TonyW: Held a very successful card signing in Ellesmere Port in support of CAFOD’s “Power to Be” campaign. 400 cards were signed. What is the “Power to Be” campaign? “Every child has the power to achieve great things. But one in six people live without electricity. This holds children back from reaching their full potential”. The “Power to Be” campaign is challenging the World Bank to spend more on local renewable energy and clean cooking in the poorest communities of the world.

BH: Christian Aid collection in Chester rose by 11% this year

BR: Event on Friday, 20th Oct – showing of film “The Balfour Project” which marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of The Balfour Declaration. Event organised by Chester Friends of Palestine. See diary for further details.

JT: Jubilee Debt Campaign cards to be signed at next meeting. Cards will be sent to Secretary of State for Health in protest against Public Private Partnerships which are putting the healthcare systems of impoverished countries like Zambia and Liberia at risk of unjust and unpayable debts

6 AOB: none

7 Arrangements for next Forum meeting: Tuesday 12th September: No speaker organised as yet. Any suggestions greatly received