

Minutes of Chester World Development Forum Meeting held on 13 March 2018 In The Unity Centre



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

Present: Terry Green, John Tacon (Chester Remain), Lindsay Cussons and Margaret Lord (Bahai), Ann McCarthy (CAFOD), Mark Rideal (Chester CND and Chester Friends of the Earth) Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine), Katy Rowe (Christian Aid and Chester Friends of Palestine), Linda Shuttleworth, Vicki Jenner, Elizabeth Bott (CAMCC) and Mike Johnson (Chester and Wrexham Amnesty International)

Apologies: Bernard Payne, Sue Bownas, Tom Ormiston, Tony Walsh

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

- Forum meeting 9th January 2018 (*previously circulated, including report of Sarah Rowe's presentation on Christian Aid's latest campaign focus*)
A £50 donation has been sent to Christian Aid
- Q&A session with Chris Matheson held on 26th January. One concern came out of the meeting and that was the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia about which there were clearly conflicting opinions. JT has been in touch with CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade) with regard to getting a speaker on this issue and the suggestion is to hold a special meeting at the University, possibly involving schools. Note that CAAT has a specific section within the organisation called "Converting arms to renewable". JT has been in touch with Chester CND with a view to it being involved in the meeting.
- Chair to report on key issues covered in Committee meetings held on:
 - 5th February 2018
 - 5th March 2018

Key issues covered in committee meetings have centred around suggestions for speakers and organising our 25 year celebration event

3 **Brief review of Fairtrade Fortnight events, including:**

- Marcial Quinteros, Fairtrade banana producer from Panama - 6th March in Wesley and the university. Excellent talk and totally demonstrated why it is so important to support Fairtrade
- "Fairtrade Funday" - 10th March in Storyhouse. This was a very successful event with lots of people coming for tastings. One very special outcome - Storyhouse now only serves Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar and some soft drinks

4 **Finance/ Admin updates:**

- Treasurer's report, including update on 2018 subscriptions.
Bank statement as of 28th Feb was **£554.78**. Adding on cash-in-hand of £7.82, the CAMCC 2017 arrears payment of £15, and Annie's subscription of £8 for 2018, then deducting mailings expenses of £10.09 paid out, gives an effective total of **£575.51** to date
Subscriptions coming in slowly
- Members' Questionnaire responses. Very few responses have been received - only 10 to date. Nothing in the responses so far would suggest that we need to change the day or timing of meetings. Responses have been very supportive of the diary. Some members use social media. (the use of using social media to advertise our events has been an issue discussed at committee).

5 Future events and activities, with reference to:

- Marking CWDF's "25th Year" – social event to be held in Hoole Community Centre on 22nd June. Further details to follow

- Other events in the latest Diary listing (*Version of 10-3-18 attached*)
 - 10th April at Riverside Campus, University of Chester – 6.30 for 7.00pm – an event organised by CAMCC to recognise the end of Razia Daniels term of office as mayor of Chester. All welcome. Posters to be circulated
 - Wed 24th Oct. UN day. A "Peace Train" will be going from Wrexham to London. More details to follow
 - "Stop Arming Saudi Arabia" silent vigil on 31st March from 12.30 – 1.30 at The Cross, Chester
 - 60th anniversary of CND this year. There will be an event to mark the occasion. TW will keep us informed
 - Christian Aid week starts on 13th May and the focus is Haiti. Some very positive stories coming out of Haiti
AM has now retired from the Christian Aid committee and KR proposed a vote of thanks to AM for her service on committee.
 - BR: Chester Friends of Palestine have been campaigning against HSBC's investments in Israel. Academic from Bethlehem University will be visiting Chester University over next 2 weeks and hoping that CFoP can have meeting on Tues 20th March in Riverside Centre with her. Details will be circulated
 - May Day Event - West Cheshire TUC - 12 noon at Town Hall

6 **AOB:** none

7 Arrangements for next full Forum meeting:

- **CWDF AGM, Tuesday 8th May** 6.45 for 7.00pm at The Unity Centre, speaker to be arranged