

Chester World Development Forum



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8 May 2018 in the Unity Centre

Note: the AGM was preceded by a talk by Gill Miller “Does Aid work – and could it do better?” See separate note of Gill’s talk.

- 1 Welcome:** Bernard Payne chaired the meeting in Terry Green’s absence
Present: Bernard Payne, Vicki Jenner, John Tacon, Ann McCarthy (CAFOD), Mark Rideal and Terry Walsh (Chester CND and FoE), Tom Ormiston and Tony Walsh (Hooton and Ellesmere Port Justice and Peace Group), Matthew Jessop (Chester Quakers), Margaret Lord (Chester Baha’is), Gerald Grant, Sue Bownas (CAFOD), Elizabeth Bott (CAMCC) and Gill Miller
Apologies: Terry Green, Lindsay Cussons, Brian and Katy Rowe, Kath Stephenson, John Freeman, Peter Jenner and Heather Lannin
- 2 Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:**

 - Forum meeting of 13th March 2018: No matters arising
 - Chair to report on key issues covered in Committee meetings held on 4th April and 30th April 2018: The committee meetings were largely concerned with organising future speakers, arrangements for the celebration on 22nd June and the data protection issue. BP is dealing with this and will be sending out information shortly.
- 3 Report on Activities May 2017 to April 2018**

 - Chair to introduce the Annual Report (*report previously circulated*). BP particularly drew our attention to Gill Miller’s contribution despite her having retired from the University and also Heather Swainston’s input on Fairtrade
- 4 Financial report for 2017**

 - CWDF’s treasurer, John Tacon, introduced the financial summary (*report already circulated*) and any questions on the accounts were invited. John Tacon reported that CWDF has a stable income and we live within our means. The Forum hasn’t had to pay out a lot for website this year. Donations have been made to Christian Aid (following Sarah Rowe’s talk in January), the crisis in Yemen and Chester CND to help pay for an advert in the local press. Just under £550 is the present balance. GM commented on the important role CWDF plays in raising awareness locally on development issues and our finances are crucial if the work of educating people in Chester is to continue.
- 5 Committee: election of officers, including:**

 - Chair: Terry Green - GM proposed and Tony Walsh to seconded
 - Treasurer: John Tacon
 - Mailing Secretary: Bernard Payne (email) and Ann McCarthy (surface mail)
 - Committee members: Lindsay Cussons, Sue Bownas, Vicki Jenner and Gerald Grant

6 Arrangements for forthcoming events/ relevant activities, including:

- **Fri 22nd June – CWDF 25-year Celebratory Event**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Hoole Community Centre, *Westminster Road, Hoole*
Plans are underway for this celebratory Social Evening, marking the 25 years of CWDF's activities and campaigning. Watch out for further information. Formal invitations will go out shortly.
- **10th July Forum meeting.** Helen Tandy on “Ethical Investment and Divestment” from Chester Friends of the Earth
- Re holding an open discussion evening on “Arms sales to Saudi Arabia” – JT still in talks with CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade)

7 Around the Table - update on current activities, events and issues, Diary listings:

JT: The questionnaire which was put out earlier in the year to individual members has not been mentioned in the annual report. However, those who responded did say that the diary was very useful in keeping members up to date with forthcoming events. A second questionnaire will go out soon asking how CWDF can support our constituent groups.

JT: there is to be an Open meeting for Fairtrade Steering Group in Nicholas House on Monday 14th May from 10.30 – 12.30, to discuss the future remit of the group. Accreditation of Borough is to be renewed

VJ: Exhibition that is well worth a visit - “Slaves of Fashion” exhibition by Singh twins in Walker Art Gallery until 20th May.

Tony W: He and TO are going to the National Justice and Peace conference in July. The theme is “**In the Shelter of Each Other the People Live:** A conference on Inclusion. Quizzes in aid of CAFOD will be continuing in Sept

Terry W: Read out details and information about Peace Train going to London.

Details to go out in mailings. Date is 24th October which is UN day

EB: Visited Iran with the Civic Trust and found it to be a very friendly country

SB: the latest CAFOD campaign is entitled “Share the Journey” – walk in solidarity with refugees and migrants. To find out more details, visit CAFOD’s website – CAFOD.org.uk SB and AM are organising a walk in COCH Country Park on 22nd July. (PS: now postponed to a date in September to be agreed)

Tony W: Hooton and EP Justice and Peace Group are organising a walk on 2nd June round Rivacre Valley starting at 2pm

SB: Jubilee Debt are holding a National Event on 29th Sept to celebrate 20 years since the encircling of Birmingham during the G8 summit. Visit Jubilee Debt website for more details

GM: “Five Talents” (microfinance company) on 12th June in Cathedral at 7pm.

One of recipient Bishops will be speaking. Details will be in the diary.

8 AOB: SB proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for all their hard work

9 Next Forum Meeting: 10th July: Helen Tandy from Chester FoE on “Ethical Investment and Divestment” – 6.45 for 7.00pm start