



Chester World Development Forum: 2021 Financial Report to Members

Introduction

As our group's normal activities have begun to return to normal after the disruption caused by the pandemic, I will continue to adopt the same approach to reporting CWDF's finances as I have for recent years. Below, I will describe and explain our income and expenditure for the 2021 calendar year. For simplicity, I have collated comparisons with equivalent figures for the five previous years in a table on the next page so that any trends can clearly be seen.

Income in 2021

CWDF's main source of income is always the membership subscriptions collected from local organisations and individuals. This was slightly down from 2020, but the loss was more than offset by a rise in accompanying donations. This was mainly thanks to a most generous donation of £70 from the Chester CND group when it formally closed. Because of the restrictions applied to combat the pandemic in the first part of 2021, we were only able to hold three of our regular Forum meetings at The Unity Centre (it would be 6 or 7 in a normal year), and we did not take any collections. We did not hold any fund-raising events in 2021. Adding up our income from all sources, the total money we received in 2021 was **£479.00**, the highest amount since 2017.

Expenditure in 2021

In a normal year, CWDF's largest predictable expenditure would be the room hire paid to CHAWREC for our Forum meetings. Because of Covid restrictions, we were only able to hold three face-to-face Forum meetings during 2021 (July, September, and a post-COP26 meeting in November), so we only paid £90 for room hire. However, in order to support CHAWREC (as we had in 2020), we donated £120 to them.

We made three other donations: £50 to DEC's South Sudan Emergency Appeal; £60 to DEC's India Covid-19 Emergency Appeal; and in response to the Haiti Disaster Appeal, we gave £200 to *Médecins Sans Frontières*. Our donations together were £430.

The annual hosting fee for our website was £41.25. We are once again very grateful to Mike Roberts for charging us a much reduced rate as a community group.

We have continued to use email to circulate information to our members, so the cost of sending out our routine mailings fell again to only £9.00 in 2021 for all photocopying and postage.

CWDF had been offered the opportunity to take part in an exhibition in Chester Cathedral which was originally scheduled for May 2020, and in response we designed a new leaflet. When we knew the exhibition was going ahead in November 2021, we had the leaflet printed, and this outlay is reflected in the 'Miscellaneous expenditures'. However, the total of our outgoings in 2021, £647, was dominated by the total of £430 of donations we made.

Financial Summary: 2016 to 2021

Item / Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Income from Subscriptions	£437	£398	£353	£297	£391	£355
Donations received	£84	£50.51	£30	£27	£41	£124
Forum collections	£50.06	£70.89	£46.74	£38.26	£7.34	
Fundraising events	£19.65					
Total income	£590.71	£519.40	£429.74	£362.26	£439.34	£479.00
Room hire	£201	£180	£220	£195	£60	£90
Speakers' expenses	£123.45					
Website	£150.00	£39.99	£41.15	£41.15	£41.15	£41.25
Cost of mailings	£49.64	£30.69	£27.77	£21.50	£13.07	£9.00
Miscellaneous expenditures	£3.00		£46.00	£10.00	£85.00	£76.75
Donations made	£75	£195	£300	£75	£165	£430
Total of costs and donations	£602.09	£445.68	£634.92	£342.65	£364.22	£647.00
Surplus or Deficit (-)	-£11.38	£73.72	-£205.18	£19.61	£75.12	-£268.00
Effective balance reported at AGM	£461.19	£469.70	£400.09	£416.24	£607.44	£399.46

This table summarises figures for the last 6 years. Focusing on 2021, we had a small decline in our membership subscriptions compared to 2020. Fortunately, the financial effect of this was more than offset by a most generous donation of £70 from the Chester CND group when it formally closed. Thanks to this, our total income, £479, was actually higher than in the previous 3 years. However, our expenditures went up significantly, mainly because we made donations to three emergency appeals, so that overall we recorded a deficit of £268 in 2021. Therefore, at the start of 2022, our total effective balance (the money in our bank account plus cash-in-hand) had fallen to **£157.24**.

Making the 2021 accounts add up

Below, I am presenting the figures in a way that I hope our members can see how money held at the start of the year, plus income and minus expenditure, gives the amount held at the end of the calendar year:

Bank statement: balance on 01 January 2021	£318.41
Plus cash-in-hand of £16.83 >> total effective balance of ...	£335.24
Plus total income during 2021 of £479.00 (see above)	£814.24
Less total expenditure during 2021 of £647.00 (see above) >>	£167.24
Bank statement: balance on 31 December 2021	£144.41
Plus cash-in-hand £12.83 >> total effective balance of ...	£157.24

This apparent discrepancy arises because one payment (an individual subscription plus donation) of £10 was made in cash. For easy comparisons with previous years, this has been tabulated as part of the total subscriptions income for 2021, but in fact it was absorbed as part of our cash-in-hand (used for paying mailings expenses). Therefore it has been counted twice in the total effective balance, and this explains why our bank balance comes out £10 lower than predicted. I am confident all the figures I have presented are accurate.

Our current position

In 2022, we have been able to resume holding our monthly Committee meetings face to face rather than by Zoom. This makes running the group's regular business much more effective, but if a committee member is away from Chester, they can still contribute via Zoom.

We have continued to hold Forum meetings in The Unity Centre, and we have also used Zoom to enable more members to observe the proceedings, and potentially participate. We do, however, recognise that the experience on Zoom is far from perfect, but we have done our best to overcome technical limitations at the venue. We will continue to offer this option for members who are unable to attend Forum meetings in person, and will try to make improvements.

We held our March Forum meeting at the University of Chester, who kindly recorded the proceedings and provided us with a link so that members who missed the excellent presentation by Dominic Brain are able to watch it on video.

We have continued to collect members' subscription payments by cheque and by BACS transfers. Electronic transfers are now how we receive the majority of our subscription payments. Most of our members find this is a more convenient option than posting a cheque.

As I do every year, I must now appeal to those members and organisations that have not yet renewed their subscriptions to do so as soon as possible please, otherwise committee members will be forced to use their valuable time chasing up payments.

John Tacon, Hon. Treasurer.

06 10 May 2022