

Chester World Development Forum

Encouraging Local Action for a Fairer World



Chair: Terry Green, 31 Cross Green, Upton, Chester CH2 1QR, 01244 383668, terry@tdgreen.f9.co.uk
Executive Secretary: Bernard Payne, 12 Appleton Road, Chester CH2 1JJ, 01244 350323, bernard.payne691@btinternet.com
Treasurer: John Tacon, 22 Marbury Road, Vicars Cross, Chester, CH3 5PJ, 01244 347001, johntacon49@yahoo.com
www.chesterwdf.org.uk

10th December 2022

Dear CWDF Supporters,

2022 has been a post-Covid year and yet the influence of Covid is still around and we still have Zoom as an option for people to join our 'face to face' Forum meetings remotely. The Climate Crisis is very much a focus, with COP 27 which has just been held in Egypt a key element. But there is great concern that action by world governments is well short of what is needed. One key decision of the recent COP is that the wealthier nations should provide funds for the Developing countries for 'loss and damage' caused over many years. It is so important that concerted action is taken to implement this decision.

Our first meeting of 2022 was in January when Chris Matheson MP joined us at the Unity Centre. Issues discussed were Overseas Aid and the Labour Party's approach, which was to restore the level to 0.7% of GDP. Concerns were expressed about what progress the Government will make to reduce carbon emissions before COP 27 in Cairo, and how support for refugees was being developed. Chris said that it would be good if CWDF continued to raise concerns about the Climate Crisis, and for each of us to take action in changing our own lifestyles. In March, we were privileged to have Dominic Brain, Global Head of Programme Development and Funding at Christian Aid speak to us about 'Disaster Reduction and Social Safety'. This was a joint meeting with Chester University, held at the University. It was such an informative talk about the work of Christian Aid in Nigeria and much appreciated.

In May, we had our AGM: annual and finance reports were tabled and accepted. Concerns were expressed that if we did not get more members we should have to consider whether CWDF should continue beyond our 30th anniversary in June 2023. In July, CWDF members Linda and Stewart Shuttleworth gave us a most interesting presentation on their ongoing work in Uganda to improve mental health services in this large developing country. In September, Dr Mark Bendall, Senior Lecturer in the University of Chester Department of Social and Political Science, led us in a most informative and challenging session about "Challenges in global politics: mis-use and mis-governance". This was concerning the power of autocratic institutions and global companies with little or no input from people using their services. Our final meeting of the year was in November, when Paul Tacon gave us a talk (by Zoom) at the University of Chester about migration. It was so helpful to have good information and to understand the worldwide situation.

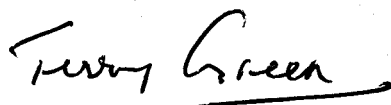
Participating Groups: Amnesty International Chester & Wrexham Group, Chester Baha'i Community, Chester City of Sanctuary, Chester Christian Aid Committee, Chester Fair Trading, Chester Friends of Palestine, Chester Muslim Association, Chester Quaker Meeting, Holy Trinity Church Blacon One World Group, Our Lady's Justice & Peace Group Ellesmere Port, St Columba's Third World Group, Transition Chester, Wesley Church Centre.

Our next Forum meeting will be at the Unity Centre on 10 January 2023. We usually invite our MP to speak, but with a newly elected MP we are assuming that will not be possible, so we plan to discuss “Loss and damage: understanding the dilemmas and decisions from COP27.”

We have good relationships with Chester Fairtrade and with other Chester groups concerned with sustainability and the climate crisis.

The Committee has continued to meet monthly, and these meetings have mostly been face to face. We see our website as most important in communicating information about our meetings and those of Member groups. We still continue to communicate through our Facebook page and on Twitter, and are delighted that Kathryn Gornall has joined the Committee to take on these responsibilities. These social media services had been much improved by Georgina Wilson who left to take up a teaching post overseas. Thankfully, our finances have enabled us to make donations to support DEC appeals, and to make a donation to the charity *Jamie's Fund* which supports improving mental health services in Uganda.

Many thanks to those members who have supported us this year, and we hope that 2023 will be a good year for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Terry Green
Chair
Chester World Development Forum