

CARLISLE ONE WORLD CENTRE

www.cowc.co.uk

Newsletter Autumn 2007

Welcome!

Since the last newsletter, COWC has held a well attended and interesting AGM, moved premises and started holding events and meetings upstairs at 2 Lowthian's Lane, not to mention the annual Fairtrade Fair on the cathedral grounds over the August Bank Holiday weekend. It has been an exciting few months and the aim of this whole year (that we have the initial rent funding for) will be to test the viability of maintaining this new, spacious and comfortable office and meeting space. If you haven't already had a chance to pop up and have a look around or a Fairtrade cup of tea please do! There is usually someone around on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings but if you want to be sure, drop us a line or phone first.

We are holding a wide range of events at the moment to invite you, our network and new potential users in to the centre. These include a season of **film nights** (more info below) which started last week with a showing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth". We will be holding a **talk in November to mark One World Week**: Eleanor Knowles from CDEC will explore "The Role of Development Education". On the first Thursday of each month we will be holding an informal "**Coffee and Chat**" session from 10:30am where your views on current issues around the world can be aired and channelled towards actions or campaigns where possible. The COWC **Campaigns Group** continues to meet on a regular basis and now includes Friends of the Earth who, along with Amnesty International will be meeting at the centre from now on. Contact us if you would like some information about using our meeting room – we can accommodate groups of up to 15 people – the rates are on page 6.

So, there is indeed a lot going on at the moment. If you would like to suggest an idea for an event at the centre or organise something yourself, do get in touch – we will do our best to accommodate you. The best way you can support us at the moment (apart from paying your annual subscriptions of course!) is to call in, attend events and participate in the centre as network members. If this resource is not used effectively over the next few months it is unlikely that we will be able to secure the future grant funding necessary to maintain the centre and its activities. With this in mind, I look forward to seeing you soon!

May I extend a warm and wholehearted THANK YOU! To all the volunteers who helped out with the move in June and with the launch in September as well as those whose ongoing contributions keep the centre going on a weekly basis. Your efforts have been really appreciated over the past few months. Finally, COWC recently said a "Goodbye for now!" to three "star" volunteers in Cathy and Hannah Bailey and Becci Palethorpe who moved away over the Summer for work and study reasons. Thanks and the best of luck all three of you!

Adrienne Gill
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The Mayor of Carlisle, Cllr. Elizabeth Mallinson, with our Chair, Greg Turner at the launch

Launch Events for COWC Upstairs and Shop Expansion

Carlisle One World Centre and Carlisle World Shop celebrated a new premises for the centre and the extension of the shop with a "double bill" of two Fairtrade events on Thursday, September 27th.

The Mayor of Carlisle, Cllr Elizabeth Mallinson, attended a Fairtrade breakfast to celebrate the centre's new home in the morning. She launched the upstairs premises which is located above the World Shop, where the centre was previously located. She was joined by a mix of statutory organisations and COWC Network supporters and friends. Her speech was very supportive of COWC and the Fairtrade Steering Group's activities and we look forward to continuing to work with her throughout her year in office.

Later that evening, a Fairtrade reception and open evening was held for those who wished to attend from the Network and other organisations working in partnership with COWC. Our guest of honour at this event was our patron, Lord Frank Judd who joined us with his wife Chris and shared some really encouraging words. This event served to promote some of the work of COWC's volunteer led groups who are using the centre for their meetings and campaign work. Representatives from Friends of the Earth, Amnesty International and the Fairtrade City Steering Group were present.

World Shop Expansion

The centre's former space is being used for an extension of the World Shop. Shop manager Anna Templeton says it

has allowed a wider range of ethical, lifestyle products to be added to the shop. "We now stock a large selection of Green and Ethical books, ranging from Green Self Building to Biodiesel and various Permaculture titles. We have also increased our range of Barefoot Books, a children's book publisher that celebrate art and story with tales from far and wide. We have increased our range of periodicals to include Permaculture magazine and the Green Parent amongst others. The exciting 2008 Autumn/Winter collection of Fairtrade and organic cotton People Tree clothing is now in.

The more spacious layout and enhanced lighting in the shop makes browsing for clothes is a real pleasure! A new supplier, Gossypium, has been added to our ever popular Organic and Fairtrade cotton baby clothes. We have also been able to add a new jewellery range from Jungle Berry, a design-led company, using sustainably sourced natural materials from the Amazon rainforest."

Some photos of the events and of the new centre are below. If you couldn't join us on the 27th there will be plenty of opportunities to visit and participate in COWC events over the next few months.



COWC AGM

The 2007 AGM was held on Thursday 14th June at the Church of Scotland. In addition to the reappointment of trustees and other business, Ruth Harvey gave a brief report of her work as Chaplain to UCLAN. Revisiting a previous discussion with the Carlisle One World Centre Committee Ruth outlined three aspects of her chaplaincy work. The first was to 'keep the rumour of God alive' which entailed a series of faith discussions and social activities which were open to people of all faiths and none. Students were very alive to questions of God and faith. A second aspect was 'helping people make sense of life' which entailed offering listening support to staff caught up in the uncertainties of the transition to being the new University of Cumbria. Ruth's other activity had involved her with a great deal of committee work and discussions about the nature of ecumenical chaplaincy to all faiths and none. The new University is open to the principle of ecumenical chaplaincy though there is still uncertainty as to what form this should take. Ruth, who has now finished up in this role, was thanked for her voluntary work on behalf of COWC and Churches Together in Carlisle.

Following a report on the move to new premises, the meeting was invited to complete post-it notes with other suggestions as to how they would want the premises to be used and how it may be staffed. These suggestions have since been used by Adrienne in her role of development worker, trustees and volunteers at the centre in planning for the future.

The Meeting then heard three excellent presentations from supporters who were practically involved in One World activities over the last year. Sue Bone spoke of her recent visit to Laos on which she was preparing a resource pack for CDEC of Laos artefacts - clothing, maps and books, musical instruments, Buddhist artefacts, cooking equipment, local crafts and photographs. She spoke of her impressions and experiences in the remote village of Muang Ngoi on which she had focused and of the forward thinking and hopes of the people of Laos. Sue hopes to interest schools to be involved with Laos as well as learning about the country and its people.

Fiona Margerison and her friend Clare Thomas related their adventure with Cycle India, the Sir Robert Winston challenge to raise fund for the charity Women for Women. The cycle ride, undertaken by one hundred women, not only raised funds, but gave Fiona and Clare an insight into many aspects of life in India, which they shared in words and pictures.

Arthur and Maggie Paynter rounded off the evening. Arthur gave an illustrated talk entitled 'The Story of Ceylon Tea' embracing the history and current facts about Sri Lanka tea and Fair Trade. Maggie made an appeal for support for a personal friend, paediatrician Dr. Binayak Sen, who is at present imprisoned without charge for his connection with the defence of Human rights in the Chattisgarh state of India.

This report was extracted and adapted from the minutes of the AGM which were kindly put together by Colin Harbach in the absence of a Secretary. If anyone is interested in this role which remains vacant, please contact COWC or one of the trustees.

Freshers' Fair 2007

COWC joined forces with Christian Aid, CAFOD, Carlisle Fairtrade City Steering Group and Friends of the Earth at this year's Freshers' Fair which took place at the University of Cumbria Fusehill Campus on 3 October. Students were offered information and material from each of the organisations and invited to participate in a FoE postcard campaign.



COWC and our partner stands at the Freshers' Fair

One World Week 21st – 28th Oct

www.oneworldweek.org

I represented COWC at the Cathedral Ecumenical Prayers on Friday 26th October and spoke about One World Week principles and national celebrations, and how this multi-faith activity relates to the aims of equality and diversity in Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God.

Like many other organisations COWC celebrates OWW issues at various other times as well as in this OWW week. (Many examples on the internet). We continue the OWW theme with Eleanor Knowles from CDEC speaking at COWC on Friday 23rd November.

I am following OWW themes at Petteril Bank School with a Keystage 2 project which touches on themes of Inclusion, Water, Climate Change, Food, Health, re-cycling etc. illustrated by games, craft work and other classroom activities.

Colin Harbach

Research into Other Centres

Cumbria Community Foundation has funded a key piece of research for COWC to identify good practice around the country in the development of similar centres. This led to visits to centres in Edinburgh, Hull, York, Reading and Ilminster, Somerset. Some of the ideas which emerged from both the visits and desk research included the following:

- Global Cafe and exhibition space offering a variety of mostly fair traded and organic food and drinks.
- A Conference Centre with four meeting rooms.
- Training and work experience opportunities for volunteers, the unemployed and young offenders.

- Resource: Free downloadable "Running a Global Film Event" Manual.
- City is twinned with Freetown, Sierra Leone. Links to Sierra Leone news page.
- Green credentials on website.
- Mailbox for Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth.
- Day book – date, who uses the centre, what they do, what action needs taking. The book is read once a month by one of the management committee.
- Written protocol – a sheet to help volunteers run the centre, opening up the centre, general enquiries, cash handling, using the day book, using the computer, new update subscription procedure, newsletter, website, library, networking.
- Issuing fact sheets on specific issues such as Ethical Consumerism, non violence, water crisis, globalization, homophobia and gay rights, reduce, reuse and recycle, transport.
- School students against war – back up, getting approval for the march from the police, using the centre's insurance, promoting the press releases, setting up the meeting with MPs.
- Work with local Children's Services Curriculum Development Officer to build up a Fair Trade Resource on their website.
- World Water Day awareness raising handbook - download free from web site.

The final report will be completed over the next few weeks and launched at a COWC Management Committee meeting on the 15th of January 2008. Some photos of the visits are below:



A development education worker at her desk in RISC (Reading) overlooking the centre's famous Roof Garden



Fairer World Shop in York

Forthcoming Events in 2007/2008



All events at 2 Lowthian's Lane unless otherwise stated

Wednesday 31st October 2pm
Fairtrade City Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 31st October Tithe Barn 7:30pm
Public Meeting "Fighting Racism in Carlisle"
Contact Carlisle Against Racism. Tel 521657

Thursday 1st November 10:30am
Coffee and Chat on Local/Global Issues

Thursday 1st November 7:00pm
Film Night - Blood Diamond (Illegal diamond trade in West Africa)

Thursday 15th November 5.15pm
Campaigns Group

Wednesday 14th November 7:00pm.
Amnesty International Carlisle Branch

Thursday 15th November 7:00pm
Film Night – Shooting Dogs (Set during the Rwanda Genocide)

Thursday 15th November, St John the Evangelist Church Hall 7:30pm
Carlisle Christian Aid Group

Friday 16th November 7:30pm
Barefoot Books Evening

Friday 23rd November 7:30pm
CDEC Talk on "The Role of Development Education"

Wednesday 28th November 7:30pm
Friends of the Earth

Thursday 29th November 7:00pm
Film Night – Phir Milenge (Bollywood HIV/AIDS Drama)

Sunday 1st December
World AIDS Day

Thursday 6th December 10:30am
Coffee and Chat on Local/Global Issues

Wednesday 12th December 7:00pm.
Amnesty International Carlisle Branch

Wednesday 9th January 7:00pm
Amnesty International Carlisle Branch

Wednesday 23rd January 7:30pm
Friends of the Earth



Fairtrade Fortnight 2008
Monday 25th February to Sunday 9th March

Monday 3rd March Tullie House 7:00pm (coffee tasting) for 7.30pm

Black Gold – powerful film following Tadesse Meskela as he travels the world to get a fair price for the coffee farmers in Ethiopia. Preceded by coffee tasting. Tickets £4.00, £3.50 unwaged, available from Tullie House Box Office from early November. Tel: 01228 618700

Fairtrade Coffee Mornings, Carlisle Old Town Hall 10-12am

Saturday 1st March Christian Aid
Saturday 8th March Carlisle Fairtrade Group

Saturday 29th March, Border Kirk, Chapel Street, 7:30pm



2008 launch evening for Christian Aid Week with Linda McClintock-Tiongco, North West Manager for Christian Aid.

COWC Subscription Reminder

For existing supporters:

We contacted supporters prior to the mid June AGM to request the renewal of your support for COWC. Our sincere thanks to those supporters who have already returned their subscription. If you have not yet sent your subscription, it would be very helpful to receive your completed supporter form and subscription as soon as possible.

We have valued your support to date and would greatly appreciate your continued support of our work associated with the wide range of issues related to Fair Trade, justice and poverty.

If you are supporting COWC as an individual and are a taxpayer, we would very much appreciate if you would gift aid your subscription. This would enable us to claim an additional £2.82 for each £10, which would be an excellent addition to our funds at no additional cost to you. Please sign the gift aided declaration if appropriate.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued contribution to the centre's activities and we look forward to keeping you informed of our work during the year.

If you do not wish to continue your support of COWC, please let us know.

For Network members who have not paid a subscription:

Whilst we keep you informed of our activities, we would value your financial support of our work. If you wish to support our work in this way, please complete the attached new supporter form and return this to COWC as soon as possible. As mentioned above, please gift aid your contribution if you are a taxpayer as this provides a significant additional income for COWC at an additional cost to the supporter.

Your contribution to the centre's activities would be very much appreciated.

Frances Robinson

CARLISLE FOOD VOUCHER SCHEME

As many supporters know, COWC resuscitated this scheme which had lain dormant for several years. It was set up in 2000 by Churches Together to address the problem of homeless men approaching churches & clergy for cash "for food". It seemed to solve this problem as the men stopped calling once they realised it was vouchers rather than money that were on offer. The churches and concerned individuals stopped buying the vouchers and the scheme seemed to fizzle out.

When COWC was established, new life was breathed into the Scheme. Research showed that there was an unmet need for support of homeless & vulnerable young people. We liaised with 2 statutory agencies working with young people – Connexions & Pathways – and the 3rd Sector organisation – Community Projects Carlisle. These bodies ensure that the vouchers reach the youngsters who are in crisis. Individuals and churches also continue to buy a small number of vouchers.

Home & Away Fish & Chip Shop on the Crescent has honoured the vouchers right from the beginning and is the most popular venue. We are very grateful to Mr Sahib for his continuing support. St Paul's Church is also a very generous provider of hot meals, rarely claiming refund from the Scheme. Impact Housing has a café, Hubbub,

serving cheap wholesome (Fairtrade) food, on its Denton Holme Centre 47 site which provides training & work for vulnerable young people. Sadly, few youngsters choose to use their Vouchers here, possibly because it is out of the city centre.

At the request of service users, we would now like to extend the Scheme. They would like the option to buy groceries as well as £5 worth of hot food. Most grocery shops are supermarkets. The ones which we approached were not interested in being involved or referred us to their impenetrable bureaucracy. If you know how we can access cheap basic groceries, please get in touch.

We are deeply grateful for the generous grants from Neighbourhood Forum, The Co-operative and recently from Francis Scott Trust and Cumberland Building Society.

Carol Barber

Thanks also to Carol for her ongoing work on this worthwhile project, helping many young people in need around the city

COWC Jobs for Centre Volunteers October 2007

The following volunteer positions have arisen at the new centre and will contribute towards the successful running of 2 Lowthian's Lane. You do not need to make a regular commitment – come in as and when you can.

Volunteers Required here

- 1. Update development education resources**
Add new resources (in blue box) and remove out of date material.
- 2. Second Hand book project**
Collect, arrange and set up a "donation" system for second hand books
- 3. Campaigns material**
Organise leaflets, flyers, postcards to ensure that most relevant and urgent are on display. Remove of out of date material.
- 4. Cleaning**
Vacuuming, dusting, kitchen and bathroom cleaning.
- 5. Events**
Coffee and chat, coffee mornings, film evenings, talks....
Talk to Adrienne or a member of the committee
- 6. Office/Computer work**
Filing, newsletter, flyers, posters, website...
Talk to Adrienne

Minimum donation schedule for meeting room rental

Statutory organisations: £10 per hour

Charities/community and voluntary organisations:
£10 (up to 2 hours)

Half day (up to 4 hours): £25

Full day: £40

COWC will provide:

- A private meeting space set up with chairs and a table if required.
- Facilities in the kitchen to prepare refreshments.
- A range of Fairtrade teas, coffees, milk and biscuits.
- Promotion of the event, where possible, in our publicity material

COWC would prefer donations by cheque (made payable to Carlisle One World Centre). Receipts available on request.

COWC Second Hand Book Project

Do you have any good quality second hand books? COWC is arranging a new scheme whereby books donated will be sold at a nominal price (50p - £1). The income will go towards the maintenance costs of the centre. Books can be left at COWC and/or contact Arthur Paynter arthurpaynter@doctors.org.uk

COWC Journal / Magazine sharing system

Do you subscribe to a periodical/journal/newsletter which you read with interest and then either throw in the bin or store away because it's too good to throw away but does nothing but use up valuable storage space? Perhaps others would be interested to read it, but do not want to or can't afford to subscribe. COWC could set up a system of a circulation list. The subscriber would leave the Magazine/journal at COWC where it would start its journey. COWC would staple the circulation list to the journal and pass it on to the next person on the list, who would read it, put a tick by their name, contact the next person by phone/email & pass it on either in person, by post or by leaving it at COWC.

There are several such journals and magazines which could include Resurgence, New Internationalist Ethical Consumer and many others.

If anyone has a journal they want to contribute to the circulation scheme please let me know.

*Arthur Paynter
arthurpaynter@doctors.org.uk*

Film Nights @ COWC

COWC is currently running a short Film Season at 2 Lowthian's Lane with four films on topical global issues. See the Forthcoming Events section for more information. All are welcome to come along and contribute to a discussion afterwards. If this season is successful we will hold another one in 2008. Suggestions and/or loans of DVDs are welcome.



Barefoot Books Evening

Anna Templeton and I will be hosting the first Barefoot Books evening at COWC on 16th November at 7:30pm. All are welcome to come along and browse and hopefully purchase, children's books from this ethical publishing house with titles from around the world.

We are also using this evening to launch the Second Hand Books project so bring along some old books (adult or children's books) for our collection. If you would like to organise a similar event, please get in touch to discuss your ideas.

Adrienne Gill

COWC Email Bulletins

Since July, I have been sending out regular emails to our Network mailing list with briefings, campaign newsletters and diary dates. These updates have also been posted on our website <http://www.cowc.co.uk/press.htm>. If you currently receive this newsletter by post and have an email address could you provide this to cowc@fish.co.uk and we will sign you up to these bulletins (and email you the newsletter itself if you wish). I try not to send more than one per fortnight but there will be both busier and slacker weeks so I hope you understand!

I will produce the next COWC newsletter in January 2008 with regular updates in the interim period. Send any articles and diary dates to me at cowc@fish.co.uk or agill.cowc@gmail.com and I will do my best to publish them.

Contact us:

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