

CARLISLE ONE WORLD CENTRE

www.cowc.co.uk

Newsletter Winter 2006 - Spring 2007

Welcome from the Editor

Season's Greetings to all of you!

This issue of the COWC newsletter may look shorter than usual. However, we still have a lot to report and to announce for the next few months so don't expect it to be of less interest than the previous few. You may have also noticed that this is earlier than I said it would be – this is for very practical reasons as I will be out of action in the New Year for a couple of months!

Keep up to date with COWC dates and forthcoming events through our website:

www.cowc.co.uk (note the new address)

Volunteers Required here

Remember to look out for symbols throughout the newsletter that will indicate ways you can get involved in COWC's activities. We have recently developed a volunteer leaflet which, along with the other main leaflets, have now been posted on the website for you to download and circulate or ponder over yourself. There are a number of vacant, key posts which we are asking you to consider when you are making your volunteer plans for 2007.

You Can Make the Difference!
Adrienne Gill

And from the Chair

If growth is a sign of life then COWC is in good shape. So much so that events seem sometimes to overtake us, and various members of the Centre are contributing more than their share of time, talent, and treasure. This makes it all the more essential that new volunteers are found. In the past this has not been too much of a problem because many people like to be part of a winning team, but it would be tragic if COWC became a victim of its own success. Individuals who share with us a vision for a more just and peaceful world will find that these ideals are alive and well in the organisation and if your particular skills make us an even more efficient tool in making this world a better place, then you will be most welcome to become more closely involved. To those who already contribute so much to the Centre we express our grateful thanks.

It is that true and deep peace that we celebrate at this time of year. We wish all our members, friends, and supporters a peaceful Christmas in their hearts and homes, but not just a peace that we keep to ourselves, but a peace we are willing to share with others.

Greg Turner



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COWC Forthcoming Events in 2007

Tuesday 9th January, 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Joseph Rectory,
7:00pm

COWC Management Committee meeting



Friday 12th January, Carlisle Civic Centre, 1:00pm
Carlisle Diversity Partnership meeting

Thursday 18th January, COWC, 5:00pm
Campaigns Group meeting

Friday 19th January to Sun 5th Feb Tullie House
Atrium Diversity Exhibition

Thursday 26th January 1:00 – 3:00pm Holocaust
Memorial Day Event

Presentation and youth drama by Wigton group – contact Stephen Dunn for places.

Tel: 817590

Saturday 20th January 2007 at the Quaker Meeting
House, Penrith, 9:30am – 4:00pm

Cumbria Fair Trade Network Open Meeting.

Speaker Pushpanath Krishnamurthy from Oxfam

He will speak at the morning session and run a workshop on Fairtrade and Trade Justice in the afternoon. All are welcome.

Thursday 25th January, Carlisle Racecourse 9:45am
– 3:00pm

Carlisle Funding Fair for voluntary and community groups. Contact Sylvia Hayhoe, Carlisle CVS, for an application form. Tel: 512513

Wednesday 14th February Cumwhitton WI Hall

Talk to Cumwhitton WI on Fairtrade and World Shop

Fairtrade Fortnight 2007 Monday 26th
February - Sunday 11th March

Friday 2nd March Carlisle Town Hall
10:00am – 12:00pm

Action Aid Fairtrade coffee morning,
fairtrade speaker and activities



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Wednesday 7th March, Tithe Barn 7.30 – 10:00pm

Fairtrade Youth Groups' concert. Fair Trade Artist Gareth Davies-Jones www.headingwestmusic.com

Also Ben and Laura – local singer songwriters

Contact Becci Palenthorpe (c/o COWC) for more info

**Thursday 8th March Methodist Church Hall
Haltwhistle 7:00 – 9:30pm**
Fashion Show - clothes and accessories from shop

Thursday 22nd March
World Water Day

Sunday 25th March
Bicentenary of the abolition of slave trade

Tuesday 27th March Westerkirk, Langholm
Fashion Show clothes and accessories from the shop

Thursday 29th March, Church of Scotland, Chapel Street, 7:30pm
Christian Aid Week 2007 Launch Event. Speakers will be Lydia Cross and Alasdair Roxburgh, two Christian Aid gap year students, talking about their experience in Tajikistan in Central Asia and the Christian Aid projects there

Monday 9th April, Carlisle City Centre, from 10:30am
IFAT Global Journey Declaration
by Mayor and Fairtrade youth street theatre. Contact Becci Palenthorpe (c/o COWC) for more info about this event or click on www.ifat.org/globaljourney

Volunteers Required here



Saturday 13th – Friday 19th May
Christian Aid Week 2007

Sunday 3rd June
Diversity event, Greystone Community Centre - contact Stephen Dunn. Tel: 817590

Monday 4th June, Heads Nook Village Hall
Talk to Heads Nook WI on Fairtrade and World Shop

Thursday 29th June, Tullie House
Humanity Exhibition

Tuesday 3rd July – Houghton
Talk to Houghton WI - on Fairtrade and World Shop

Saturday 7th July – Tullie House
Diversity Exhibition

Tuesday 7th November Great Orton Village Hall
Talk to Great Orton WI on Fairtrade and World Shop

 **One World Week 2006**
22 - 29 October www.oneworldweek.org

In view of recent poor attendances at the One World Week event, Carlisle One World Centre decided to change tactics this year by 'going out' to an audience rather than inviting them in. The chosen audience was Primary Schools.

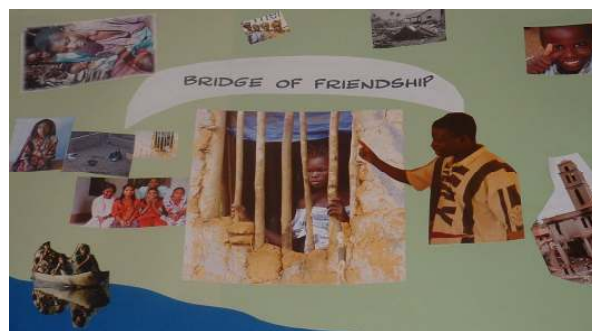
In the two weeks prior to One World Week we visited five Primary Schools; Belah; Blackford; Houghton; Longtown; and Robert Ferguson, taking a whole school assembly in each of them on the theme of 'Diversity' and the benefits we derive from sharing our many differences, personally and globally.

Then on two separate Fridays, eight year 6 children from each school were invited to share in games, drama and creative activities on the theme, which culminated in creating a collage depicting a Bridge of Friendship across which rich and poor, north and south could be united and share diversity.

The creative work formed part of the One World Week display in the Community room at Tullie House, where we hope it reached an adult audience too. The children enjoyed the events and we and teachers who became involved were impressed by the way in which the children grasped the theme and discovered their own 'unity in diversity.'

We hope that a similar event can be repeated next year, and possibly even once a term.

Colin Harbach



Freshers' Day Activities 2006

COWC had a strong presence at the Freshers' Day activities this year in Carlisle Institute of the Arts, St. Martin's College and Carlisle's UCLAN campus. Volunteers manned an informative stand and distributed packs with information about Fairtrade and the centre itself. Several students signed up to more information about COWC, Fairtrade and expressed interest in a new Stop AIDS Club.



Funding Update

Good news from the last few months. Funding has been secured from The Co-operative's Community Dividend Fund for COWC's food vouchers project (£500) and, to the Fairtrade Steering Group, for the production of new Carlisle City Fairtrade Guides (£300). In addition, the Cumbria Community Foundation has awarded £1,850 towards IT equipment and two research and development activities in 2007. Finally, the Big Lottery's Awards for All fund has awarded £5,000 towards the expansion of COWC in 2007. Exciting times ahead!

New COWC Campaigns Group

This group was formed in October and has already met on two occasions to agree on how to move forward along with some ideas for campaigns in 2007. The idea for forming the group came out of the success of the "Make Poverty History" campaign in 2005 which drew on the strengths and efforts of several campaigning groups in the greater Carlisle area to bring over 250 campaigners to Edinburgh for this memorable occasion.

The group whose members have so far been drawn from Christian Aid, CAFOD, World Development Movement and COWC itself will agree on up to three major campaigns a year to work on, based on national campaigns and strategic dates (e.g. Fairtrade Fortnight, World AIDS Day etc.) In addition, COWC and the Campaigns Group members will offer mutual support to each other's activities e.g. meeting MPs, brainstorming about approaches, publicity (local press, this newsletter, emails) etc. The first

major campaign that will take place will be The Global Journey Fairtrade declaration, see below. New members are welcome, in particular to coordinate and support this group. Contact COWC for further information on how to get involved.

Volunteers Required here

IFAT Global Journey to Carlisle on Monday 9th April 2007



The Global Journey is the world tour of Fair Trade, the Fair Trade Organisation mark and the Fair Trade message.

The three elements present in every global journey event are...

- a journey
- the banner with the FTO mark
- the reading out of the Fair Trade message

The International Fair Trade Organisation mark was set up by the global organisation IFAT (International Fair Trade Association). IFAT's mission was to improve the livelihoods and well being of disadvantaged producers by linking and promoting Fair Trade Organisations, and speaking out for greater justice in world trade.

The Global Journey is passing through all the countries in which IFAT has members. It has already been in Asia, Latin America, North America and Africa. The Global Journey will reach the UK in March 2007 with lots of exciting events already being arranged in and around Fairtrade Fortnight. **The banner will reach Carlisle during the Easter holidays with events that will include a function in the city centre featuring young people performing street theatre and a public declaration of the Fairtrade message on Monday 9th April at 10:30am at the Market Cross in Carlisle City Centre.** There may also be an event along Hadrian's Wall to link into the Newcastle events.

Confirmed details will follow – keep an eye on the COWC website – www.cowc.co.uk

For more information, the contact details are as follows: www.ifat.org/globaljourney or contact Becci Palenthorpe c/o COWC. **Please put the 9th of April in your diaries and come along to support this historic event in Carlisle.**

Volunteers Required here



Water Privatisation Campaign

News from WDM

Campaign against the privatisation of water in underdeveloped countries:

***** World Water Day 22 March 2007*****

You could make a change by opposing our government's policies

- **GATS** (General Agreement on Trade and Services)

Rich nations are forcing developing countries to adopt economic policies, such as GATS, which can only make the poor poorer. Local democracy is being undermined by rich countries and their business interests.

- **Liberalisation**

Under EU proposals poor countries are being forced to open their markets to manufactured goods and services from rich countries.

This will make it harder for poor countries to develop their own industries and compete in a global marketplace. They must be given the chance of adding value by processing their raw materials themselves.

The UK labour party manifesto for the last election promised "we do not believe that poor countries should be forced to liberalize". Is this the voice of the UK government?

Under GATS the EU is pressing 72 developing countries to open up their water distributing systems to European multinationals. Peter Mandelson head of the EU negotiating team doesn't seem to get it and continues to push for a deal that will favour the rich over the world's poor.

- **Crisis**

We all need water to stay alive. But access to water is not guaranteed for everyone. Of a world population of 6bn, over 1bn do not have access to clean drinking water.

- **Privatisation**

International financial institutions, trade agreements, governments etc and even some of the UN are all promoting privatisation and the commodification of water as a way of dealing with this crisis. The question arises; does privatisation have a role to play in solving the global water crisis or should water supplies remain in public hands? There are many cases now where communities have forced out the multinationals and successfully taken control themselves.

- **To whom does the rain water belong?**

It has always been a community resource. Water is now increasingly mined for profit. Evidence shows that privatisation leads to rising water rates, unclean water and limited access. There are many cases where liberalisation and the privatisation of water has led to an increase in price and a drop in quality. The only way for just water services is public control (democracy).

- There is now a real threat that multinational companies will end up controlling the world's water supply.

- The poor are being left unable to afford the water they need.

- **Privatisation consultants**

Forbidden by the IMF to erect import barriers the World Bank is forcing countries to "liberalise" their trade and privatise their economies. Consultancies are encouraged by our government to advise under developed countries on how to privatise their water assets.

Example:

Tanzania and Biwater; (a British company which also runs Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water). Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in the world, is being sued by Biwater. Whether they win or lose the government of Tanzania will have added costs and large legal bills in resolving this. The CEO of Biwater is recorded as saying that "water is one of the most precious assets in the world and his industry has always recognised that it has obligations to the world community that goes beyond making money". He has obviously forgotten that he ever said that. The court hearing is April 2007.

Biwater is also involved in bidding for a contract to manage water supplies in Ghana. The private company is not required to invest anything. The World Bank insists that prices will be increased by 95% and will not include any measurement of bacterial content or extension of the system to other waterless areas. Ghana has to raise its own capital (\$500m) whilst the company will take profits out of the country. A coalition in Ghana is opposing this.

Years ago Clare Short when she was Secretary of State for Development said that privatisation was the only way to get the investment needed. However after more than ten years of pro-privatisation less than 1% of private sector investment has come up with the promised levels of development.

- **Conditionality**

We could stop the scandal of dirty aid by demanding that the money goes to projects which deliver affordable water to people. Dirty water kills 2m people p.a. yet, instead of supporting local reforms the UK government (and the EU) has been insisting that handing control to private companies is the only solution.

The cosy relationship between our government and privatisation consultants must be broken up. (Hilary Benn please hear us)

October saw a big campaign success for the Dirty Aid Water Campaign conducted by WDM. The International Development Committee (a group of MPs who scrutinise DFD Policies) announced that it was going to hold an inquiry on water and sanitation. It will run through till next year specifically to look at donors (i.e. DfID etc). Lobbying plays a clear part in this. The recent Early Day Motion (EDM 2073; early November) "Promoting public solutions to global water shortages". As a result of lobbying MPs: a third of all MPs signed the motion (211) a spectacular result. We are glad to see that Mr Martlew is included in this list.

Blue October

- Water is a right not a commodity. Action is planned to challenge the corporate control of water in a number of countries. This is the anniversary when the human right to water was added to the constitution in Uruguay. (Successes in Kerala, Brazil etc.)
- Up to now we have been calling for our government to join with them to recognise water as a human right. Now the UK government has just announced for the first time that it supports the right to water. Now the government needs to translate this into action.

Millennium Development Goals:

- **MDG 7:** To halve the percentage of people without access to water by 2015 (There is little cause for optimism on current trends but there are many success stories)
- **MDG 3** aims to promote gender equality.

These goals are inextricably linked. The water development goal will not be reached unless women's knowledge and experience are at the heart of delivering it. World Water day is 22 March 2007; the ideal day to follow up letters to MPs

Christian Aid and Climate Change

Orissa is a large Indian State, bordering on the Bay of Bengal, and with a population of 36 million. It contains some of India's greatest treasures in scenery, wildlife and historical heritage. It is also a very rural area with the large majority of the population living in rural villages.

Orissa is also suffering from the increasing effects of global warming, as a number of us heard from Ranjan Panda, who runs one of Christian Aid's partner organisations when he gave a talk in Carlisle in October of this year. In western Orissa, away from the coast, the climate is each year becoming increasingly hostile as temperatures are rising and the monsoon rainfall period is becoming shorter and less predictable. Large parts of Orissa are becoming increasingly desertified and causing great hardship.

And this climate change is in part being brought about by rapid industrialisation within Orissa itself. Projects for large steel plants are planned for Orissa, to feed India's growing demands, which require more power stations and much greater quantities of minerals and further contribute to global warming. One estimate predicts that by 2010 Orissa will contribute as much as 7 to 10% of global greenhouse gases. Large open-casting schemes are destroying natural forests and turning agricultural land into barren land, and water that was previously retained in the soil now erodes the soil and runs away.

Ranjan Panda is the convener of the Water Initiative Orissa, a charity and partner of Christian Aid which is helping people of greatest need in affected rural areas with means to collect and conserve water on a domestic basis. He is also an academic who combines this work with research into the causes and effects of global warming in Orissa.

As well as supporting the work of bodies such as Water Initiative Orissa, Christian Aid is broadening its

campaigning to include climate change, as it is the poorest of the world who are the most vulnerable to its effects. It is hoped to bring a "Stop Climate Chaos" Roadshow to the Carlisle area some time next Spring.

Doug Scott

One to watch

Al Gore's new film – **An Inconvenient Truth** contains some thought provoking messages about climate change and its impact on the whole planet. Check out: www.climatecrisis.net/

COWC Classifieds

Signing up to the liftshare website is an excellent way of saving on carbon emissions and reducing the congestion on our roads. www.liftshare.org

COWC supporter and volunteering leaflets are now available on our website to download with an up to date list of volunteer vacancies. Click on www.cowc.co.uk/download.htm

From the Chaplaincy

A huge thank you to all at COWC and Churches Together in Carlisle for your support over this last term, in the chaplaincy. We've had two fantastic 'Open Discussion' sessions with students, the staff continue to be delighted with the coffee and scones on a Monday, which offers a chance to meet up with each other and share news. And plans are afoot for more student-led activities in 2007.

Network Meeting

Joe Human gave a very informative presentation to COWC Network members at the Church of Scotland last month on the efforts and achievements of "changemakers" in South Asia on ending violence against women and girls in their societies. More information on this inspiring campaign can be found on the website www.wecanendvaw.org



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