

2004-05 annual report (to Jan 2005)

We feel we have hit the ground running in this, our first year, and we are pleased to report some solid and exciting achievements. Having set up much of the organisation's structure and funding, we achieved take-off with the appointment of our Coordinator in July. This report describes progress made on several fronts in line with our plan - organisational, schools work, events held, networking and campaigning. These programmes come together under our mission statement:

“Our purpose is to raise island awareness and understanding - in schools and among the community at large - of global poverty and inequalities, and to encourage a response.”

This report sets out what we have achieved up to January 2005.

1. Organisational development:

- **Governance:** Back in March 04, and following recommendations from an ad hoc working group, a public meeting appointed a management committee. This consists of eight local people from a variety of backgrounds (teaching, dev ed, business, aid agencies) as well as representing development & environmental organisations.
- **Legal status:** 'Manx Development Education Network' was registered in May 04 as an IOM charity (no.911) - though our more popular name is the One World Centre.
- **Membership:** our aim is to create a wide popular ownership; 50 members recruited to date, including four schools/organisations.
- **Staff:** In July our part-time Coordinator was appointed - Cheryl Cousins, a qualified teacher with a passionate commitment to both development and green issues, as evidenced by spending extensive periods working on environmental projects in Kenya and Lebanon. She is a recognised artist with a natural creativity.
- **Base:** we have set ourselves up by hiring a room in an old woollen mill which has been recently refurbished to a high standard. It is located in the centre of the island, and also serves as an attractive venue for events.
- **Volunteers:** several devoted volunteers have come forward, and have been invaluable in helping with our schools work, events and campaign.
- **Funding:** this remains ongoing, but for the year 04-05 we have raised about £29,500, from a diverse range of sources: aid agencies (Oxfam, Cafod, Tearfund, Christian Aid) £8,000; individual donations £8,500; Dept of Education (IOM Govt) £5,000; IOM Lottery £3,000; Manx Coop £2,000; IOM Golden Jubilee Trust £3,000.

2. Working in and with schools:

- Books, videos, DVDs, CDROMs, games, and teaching packs have been purchased, and over 1,000 of such items have been recorded onto a database catalogue, classified and presented on shelves in our resource centre at the Mill. (cont...)

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Chair: Phil Craine. Treasurer: Phil Matthews. Management Committee: Hilary Corlett, Hugh Davidson, Muriel Garland, Sue Mycock, Peter O'Shea, Peter Whittaker. Coordinator: Cheryl Cousins.

Manx Development Education Network - Reg. Charity No. 911

- Teachers are already borrowing resources, and **schools** are gradually seeing us a reference point . **Through the all Island education email link we are able to update them with current global info. Eg we recently supplied tsunami educational links and materials.**
- Cheryl is **working closely with** key advisers within the IOM government's Department of Education.
- She has taken assemblies and classes, and addressed teacher training events, meeting many teachers, both primary and secondary.

- We have exhibited at 'Young Enterprise of Mann' with our resources; raised profile with public and sixth-formers.
- We hosted Eutropia Medina of Peruvian NGO 'Proande', and took her to speak at 4 schools about Proande's work in water, sanitation, and cultural rights for the marginalized indigenous Quechua people.

We obtained 2,000 free copies of the 'Rough Guide to Better World' - a concise and useful guide to development written by DFID - and are in the process of distributing them to all year 11-13 **pupils and students at the IOM** college who would like a copy. We have also offered them to the wider public through IOM post offices **and other outlets**.

3. Events:

- Aug 30: a bank holiday Gala concert featuring top Manx singers and choral groups - to raise funds for Darfur, Sudan. The concert attracted over 200, and the sum of £2,800 for the DEC appeal. Whilst aware that fundraising is not our core mission, we felt we had to help - and gained much useful profile.
- Oct 16: official launch, attended by 120 people. Formally opened and speeches by members of Tynwald (IOM parliament). **The event had a multicultural element with singing by an African and Manx choir.. Students from the International Hotel & Catering school** from Asian countries entertained with national cuisine/nibbles, music & costume - and informed the audience with laptop presentations on their countries. Fairtrade wine was served; a poster exhibition of educational material which also represented our member agencies adorned the walls, and much fun and learning took place in the children's art workshops.
- Jan 18: Eutropia Medina addresses public meeting about her work in Peru (see schools section) - 60 attended
- Jan 30: We are coordinating a 'mega-sale' fundraiser for the DEC Asian Tsunami appeal, inviting the public to donate unwanted Xmas gifts. Most of the work is being done by aid organisations with their many volunteers, but we have found ourselves to be a useful umbrella body to bring them together.
- We have also conducted several talks to community and church groups.

4. Networking and campaigning:

Work is proceeding on our first home-grown publication - directories recording experiences of Manx people who have lived in a developing country, as well as those of people from such countries who are now living on the island.

Media coverage has been extensive, with several articles in the local press, as well as many slots on Manx Radio - about ourselves, our vision, our events, our campaign.

Our first newsletter was produced in January, aimed at members and teachers.

Plans for our website are at an early stage; we have identified broad content headings and target audiences.

We printed and distributed 4,000 postcards inviting the IOM public to send them to their elected politicians, pressing for a radical increase in the IOM's overseas aid budget. We also wrote to politicians ourselves, and were rewarded when the Government voted in December to aim to spend 0.7% of our national income on aid by 2013 (currently 0.05%).