



Annual Report 2019-20

General Information

Mission Statement:

The One World Centre raises awareness on the Isle of Man of global issues of poverty, injustice and the environment – with a view to encouraging and enabling a positive response.

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Committee Members

Chair: Phil Craine
Treasurer: Linda Wildman (until August 2019)
Leon Roome (from August 2019)
Claire Bader
Clare Barber MHK
Fams Camara
Becky Crease
Laura Cretney (until April 2019)
Helen Kneale (until June 2019)
Charlotte Looker (from November 2019)
Clare Manser (until September 2019)
Phil Matthews
Rosie Scott
Lesley Sleight (until April 2019)
Louise Whitelegg

Minutes Secretary: Rosie Scott

Company Secretary: Becky Crease

Workforce

Coordinator: Wendy Shimmin

One World Charity Challenge Project Officer:
Sarah Comish

Volunteers

During the course of the year many different people have helped with our activities, including our schools and Fairtrade events, the Global Village and the street collection for the DEC Coronavirus Appeal.

Key Funders & Supporters 2019-20

AFD Software Ltd
Isle of Man Government through the
Development Education and Awareness
Raising Grant

Thank you also to our members and supporters for the many individual donations we received during the year.

The One World Centre is a Manx Registered Charity No. 1192 (formerly No. 911). Also registered as a company limited by guarantee No. 128537C.

Chair's Introduction

Did you know there's a Douglas in Namibia? Until 1st August neither did I – nor did the little girl or her Mum at the One World Centre's stand at the Douglas Fun Day. But with photo clues (camels in a desert) as well as geographic (on the west coast of Africa), the penny dropped.

Raising awareness of the wider world is what the OWC is all about, whether engaging in a light-hearted competition in Nobles Park or encouraging sixth-formers to consider (as part of our Charity Challenge competition) how a Manx-related charity may be working alongside Kenyan villagers to bring them clean drinking water, and so take a small step to achieving a UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Covid19 has meant that our 16th year has not been the easiest. School closures and restrictions on gatherings were severe threats to our programme, although our Coordinator Wendy Shimmin and the team rose to the challenges by providing online global resources and activities for teachers and home-schoolers. One early casualty at the end of March was the final of our One World Charity Challenge; however this evening is only the visible tip of the iceberg compared to the valuable week-in week-out time spent with scores of year 12 students over the preceding six months by CC Coordinator Sarah Comish.

Our Global Village on Tynwald Day was of course another no-show, but the disappointment was soon offset by the chance to put together a Global Village at the Douglas Fun Day, which included several humanitarian and environmental groups as well as the flavours of African and Filipino cuisines.

Along with sorrow, the pandemic has brought some silver linings. It has underlined our interdependence on each other, and has painfully brought home to our species – especially those of us living in the West – that we are not in control at all. We now know, too, that our key workers here on the island have often been immigrants: office cleaners, shop assistants, care home workers and hospital staff. We collected over £2,000 in bucket collections for those tackling the virus in places like Syria, Yemen and South Sudan. We dare to hope that the new normal will be a fairer, cleaner, humbler world.

Aid budgets are under attack across the board, even before the coronavirus came along. The UK's respected aid programme risks dilution by those who would spend it to further British trade and immigration policies. Here on the island, there is a concern that some of this year's budget may be lost, although we are grateful that the Government has funded two-thirds of our programme in the past financial year. We give thanks too to AFD Ltd who again generously supported Charity Challenge.

We remain proud to be part of the island's Climate Change Coalition, and emphasise the global aspects of this existential threat to our entire planet – another challenge which has no respect for national frontiers. The tens of millions most at risk - those who live in hot countries with scant

resources to adapt – have contributed least to the problem. This issue is central to our work, whether in the classroom or responding to Government consultations.

We have been moved by the remarkable growth of the Black Lives Matter movement, and were pleased to support the 1,500 strong march along Douglas prom. We are excited to be engaged with black groups, the Department of Education, Sport & Culture and Manx National Heritage about how we might contribute to anti-racism in Manx schools as well as highlighting instances of slavery in today's world.

To conclude, I'd like to publicly express heartfelt thanks to:

- our staff Wendy and Sarah for their professionalism and commitment to keeping the show on the road;
- to our volunteers who give selflessly of their time and talents;
- to all our donors, including those who dig into their pockets for a monthly donation as a measure of trust in what we do;
- to our unsung members for simply signing up; we gain immense encouragement from knowing we strike a chord with you.
- finally, sincere thanks to my fellow members on our management committee, without which the Centre would cease to exist.

Phil Craine

September 2020

Coordinator's Note

As our Chair has already observed, the coronavirus pandemic had an unexpected impact on our activities during the past academic year. Although we were able to adapt several projects to the new home school and work environment, some of our plans (such as a return visit by performing arts group Moving Sounds) had to be put on hold. We are grateful to our funders, particularly the Isle of Man Government and AFD Software Ltd, for their ongoing support during these challenging circumstances and giving us the flexibility to make the necessary changes to our programme.

Wendy Shimmin

Work with Schools

One World Charity Challenge

Sadly, Charity Challenge was one of the projects that fell victim to the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

The project had progressed well over the winter and we were tantalisingly close to holding the finals for this event in late March when it became clear that a public finals event would not be possible.

Unfortunately, with the sudden closure of the schools, it was not possible to organise a virtual event and, with the kind agreement of our sponsors

AFD Software Ltd, the prize money pool for the finals night was split evenly between the charities the teams had chosen to represent. This meant that payments of £1,750 were made to Advantage Africa, DO! Developing Orphans, Excellent Development, Glad's House, Port St Johns Community Centre Fund and Thare Machi Education. A further £2,750 in total was distributed to charities represented by teams who didn't progress past the in-school heats.



It was disappointing that the students involved were unable to present their work in person but the main learning and understanding of international development took place over the winter months and we are pleased another Year 12 cohort got the opportunity to explore the work of charities working overseas and the positive impacts they have on the lives of others.

Our thanks to AFD, as well as all the students, teachers and volunteers who helped on this project.

Fairtrade primary school conference

This proved to be a very popular event again, attracting teams from the maximum number of primary schools (17) permitted at the venue. This year we were able to engage Heather Thompson from Traidcraft Exchange as the keynote speaker. Heather discussed how climate change is affecting small producers (focussing on coffee farmers in Tanzania) and also how Fairtrade can help farmers with disabilities. Heather later ran one of the workshops which, through role play, challenged students to think about how some individuals and families are more vulnerable and disadvantaged than others. Students enjoyed a full day's programme including:



- Keynote speech provided by Heather Thompson of Traidcraft Exchange
- Richman/poorman activity
- Debate in the Tynwald Chamber
- Workshop on the chocolate supply chain
- Workshop involving role play game based on characters in a developing country
- Philosophy for Children on the subject of fairness



- Planning session for activities in their schools during Fairtrade Fortnight

We are grateful to the knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers from the Isle of Man Fairtrade Group and One World Centre members who help to make this event run smoothly on the day.

SDG It's Not Fair Competition!

The competition (which replaced the previous short film competition) was launched in early March and circulated to all schools via the Department of Education's Training and Events Coordinating team. Initial response was good with two schools immediately asking for supporting sessions, however when it became clear that schools would be closed for some time, the competition was reworked for home learning (including notes and links to helpful resources) and recirculated to schools. It was also featured on our website and social media pages.



While some schools did forward details of the reworked competition via their own social media/newsletters, without any supporting sessions it was difficult to drive interest in the project or to engage parents who had been pitched overnight into becoming home educators so the number of entries was small. A presentation will be made to the overall winner from School Yn Jubilee in the new academic year.

One World Poetry Slam

After a successful finals event for the 2019 competition at the Ballakermeen Studio Theatre in September, the 2020 Poetry Slam initiative began as usual with the theme "Making A Difference" remaining the same as the previous year. After the lockdown and closure of schools at the end of March 2020, it was agreed the planned activity should be postponed (due to the collaborative nature of Slam teams and the cancellation of Manx LitFest where the winners usually perform).

Over Easter, a replacement competition for individuals was devised that was designed for those attending the hub schools and for those working from home. It was created in conjunction with staff at Castle Rushen High School and had the theme of “A Better Future”.

The task was to think about the future and try and use some of these experiences from the time when our world was very different to suggest what a better future might look like. What should the “new normal” be? Should we go back to exactly what it was like before or could we change a few things (or a lot of things) to help create a better world for the future ?



Students were encouraged to look at the Sustainable Development Goals and create a poem of up to 500 words that would make people think about how we could help make the world a better place for everyone. The return to school after TT meant that fewer schools participated than usual as they sought to catch up with learning but we had some excellent entries from CRHS and the writers of the three winning poems will be receiving their prizes in September (copies of an anthology *Planet in Peril* which was launched at last year's Manx LitFest).

Collaborative education

Following on from our collaboration with Practical Action during 2018-19, we were pleased to attend the Isle of Man STEM Fest for KS2 students held at the Villa Marina over two days in October where we showcased one of Practical Action's Plastic Challenges to highlight the environmental impact of plastics and the importance of rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling.

We also had plans to work collaboratively with Send A Cow and Excellent Development during the later part of the year which were postponed due to coronavirus restrictions.



General Activities

Fairtrade Fortnight

Schools that had participated in the Fairtrade Conference were able to pass on their learning and held a number of events such as Fairtrade bake sales, decoration-making, games and assemblies, many of which were featured on school websites/newsletters etc.

In terms of public engagement, Phil Craine (OWC Chair), Wendy Shimmin (OWC Coordinator) and two members of the Island's Fairtrade Group were invited to talk about all aspects of Fairtrade, including the Isle of

Man's Fairtrade Island status, on a one hour topical debate programme *Perspectives* on

Manx Radio. The programme is available to listen to here:

<https://www.manxradio.com/podcasts/perspective/episode/fairtrade-fortnight-fairtrade-island-status-and-first-hand-experiences/>



Global Village

Again, our usual Global Village at the arboretum on Tynwald Day was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, bearing in mind that one of the objectives of the Global Village is to acknowledge the Island's cultural diversity, we felt there was an opportunity to celebrate this in a virtual way with an online project that involved contributions from people of different cultural backgrounds now living in the Isle of Man. Week. This involved them telling us about a national holiday in their country of origin – what it represented and the significance of that, as well as when and how it was celebrated. Respondents could provide text, audio or video contributions which were then collated on the One World Centre website <https://www.oneworldcentreiom.org/holiday-national-celebrations-around-the-world/>. We had a number of interesting submissions from countries as varied as Colombia and Nigeria. The website pages were launched during Tynwald Week and will be regularly updated as more contributions come in.



As coronavirus restrictions eased we were then invited to recreate a mini Global Village at Douglas Fun Day on 1st August, one of the few mass attendance events to go ahead this summer. Although we only had a few weeks' notice, we were able to involve a number of Global Village regulars including Friends of the Earth, Taste Africa, UNAIOM, Christian Aid, the Student Climate Network, Jomel Filipino Food and a Fairtrade stall. We were also joined for the first time by the Rotary Club who brought along their Shelterbox kit, used to provide emergency shelter at times of national disaster or crisis. (They also brought along a Sinclair C5 battery car which was a great hit with



children in particular!) As the OWC, we ran a game based on other countries that have towns named Douglas to get people thinking about the wider world and also had a dressing up activity with charity shop clothes kindly provided by Crossroads for Carers to highlight the advantages of Slow Fashion over Fast Fashion with regards to the environment and human rights.

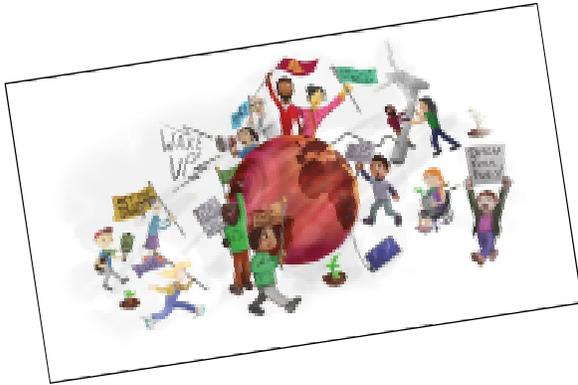
Attendance at the Fun Day was estimated at 5,000 -6,000 and it was an

excellent opportunity for us to extend our reach and engage with families. Whilst there the OWC Coordinator took part in a live video interview with 3FM to explain the background to the Global Village as well as touching on sustainability, cultural respect and understanding, and the impact of coronavirus on developing countries. She also participated in an interview with Manx Radio and the event was well covered in social media and the press.



One World Week

The 2019 theme was *Climate Changes Everything: Now is the time to act* which gave us a springboard to talk widely about climate change impacts, particularly from a global perspective. In addition to supplying schools with climate change resources, we organised a public film screening of *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* at Ballakermeen Studio Theatre and also an interfaith meeting to discuss the different approaches to climate change by faith and non-faith groups.



The One World Centre also co-hosted an SDG forum, kindly facilitated by Angela Little, which brought a number of different parties together to discuss what work is being done with regard to SDGs in the Isle of Man. This included DEFA/IoM Biosphere, UCM, Isle of Man Government, Department of Education, External Relations, United Nations Association of the Isle of Man and representatives from the Green Party and Climate Change Coalition as well as OWC.

The event was attended by Sir Richard Jolly, who had given the UN Day lecture the previous night as the guest of UNAIOM. Sir Richard talked about his experiences with both Bristol and Lewes local authorities and how they were using the SDGs to map and drive local initiatives. There is a clear opportunity to set up a similar hub for an SDG alliance on the Isle of Man

Public Awareness Raising

We continue to raise awareness of global issues and the case for international aid through our day-to-day work. This includes:

Speaking opportunities: The OWC Coordinator offers talks to other groups. This year these have included a presentation on the SDGs to representatives of the Manx Labour Party and Green Party and a presentation on climate change to Ramsey Methodist Women's Group.

Engaging other speakers: The OWC helped support the visit of Paul Allen from Zero Carbon Britain (Centre of Alternative Technology) as part of Climate Action Week. Paul gave a very well-attended talk in Douglas and also visited schools and the Chamber of Commerce Carbon Zero Group. We also helped organise a visit from Rob Greenfield, American eco-activist who was to give a public talk at the Ballakermeen Studio Theatre and another talk to BHS students. Unfortunately, his visit had to be postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Film nights: We had planned to reinstate OWC film nights which had proved popular some years ago. We began with a free screening of Honeyland in March at the British Hotel in Douglas. Unfortunately, coronavirus restrictions prevented further film nights but we did signpost free films and documentaries that could be watched at home during the lockdown period.

Festival of Trees: We use our links with other groups (such as Save the Children's Festival of Trees and the Climate Change Coalition) to highlight the global elements and impacts of issues such as climate change. This year's Festival of Trees entry highlighted the plight of refugees and featured



knitwear that people all over the Island had created for Manx Refugee Support Group to send on to refugee camps.

Partnerships with other groups: We continue to be a vocal advocate for the Isle of Man Climate Change Coalition, and we work with other like-minded projects such as UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man to raise awareness of sustainable development. We are also members of the Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce and participate in the Zero Carbon and Charity sub-groups.

We maintain a website and social media pages including Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn where we post information and links to campaigns, relevant initiatives and other groups of interest.

Networking and supporting other charities

We actively seek to promote the work of other Manx charities working in international development and support them with publicity and training where appropriate through the expertise we have on our management committee. This year we had planned to offer a Spring training session which did not go ahead due to the restrictions around coronavirus. However, we were contacted by a number of charities who were applying for the Isle of Man Government’s International Partnership grants (later postponed to 2021) for help and advice and we assisted Cabinet Office in facilitating a meeting with local charities on the changes to the International Partnership funding stream.

We also offered to create a Development Charities Forum whereby local charities could pool resources, concerns and knowledge. Only a couple of charities responded positively to this and we intend to offer some more targeted training and information during the coming year.

DEC Appeals

There was one call by the DEC during the 2019-20 year and this was in July 2020 for the Coronavirus Appeal supporting work in several vulnerable nations such as Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Somalia and in refugee camps.



Although the main thrust of the Appeal was through online donations, we organised a street collection in the Island for Saturday 25th July. Recruiting volunteers for this proved difficult and the collection yielded just over £2,000 in total. We are also continuing to encourage people to donate directly online.

Strategic Advice to IoM Government

The award of the Government's Development Education and Awareness Raising Grant requires us to provide Government with strategic advice on international development matters. These take the form of regular reports highlighting emerging issues and suggesting possible new approaches to aid.

CODEC and the UK Development Education network

We continue to be members of the Consortium of Development Education Centres (CODEC) which links us to other similar organisations in the UK. As well as providing insight into what other similar groups are doing, membership offers us the chance to work collaboratively, attend the annual conference and training sessions, and access useful lesson plans and schemes of learning, potential speakers and visitors. The Coordinator is currently on the CODEC sub-group for the Global Teaching Award, which is looking at providing a perspective to new teachers on global learning.

<https://www.codec.org.uk/>

Keep up with all the news!

The One World Centre is on:

