



One World Centre (Isle of Man)



Annual Report
2024-25

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: Claire Bader

Treasurer: Leon Roome

Vice Chair: Dr Christa McCartney

Sarah Comish

Phil Craine

Phil Matthews

Chido Maunze

Louise Whitelegg

Company Secretary: Dr Christa McCartney

Workforce

Coordinator: Wendy Shimmin

Volunteers

During the course of the year many different people have helped us with our activities and sharing information. Thanks to you all.

Key Funders & Supporters 2024-25

AFD Software Ltd

Elizabeth Clucas Charitable Trust

Gough Ritchie Trust

H&S Davidson Trust

Isle of Man Government (International Development Education and Awareness Grant)

Manx Lottery Trust (Resilience Building Grant and Welcome Project Grant)

Other supporters 2024-25

Lloyds Bank

Manx Co-op

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

This past year has again demonstrated our world's interconnectedness and its vulnerabilities. Ongoing global conflicts—from Gaza and Ukraine to Sudan—have caused immeasurable hardship, while climate shocks continue to disproportionately affect those least responsible for their causes. Across continents, millions of people remain uprooted, deprived of access to education, healthcare, or even basic safety.

The rise of populist politics around the world is eroding international cooperation, reducing support for humanitarian principles and making it harder to address these shared challenges of conflict, climate and inequality. The scale of need is daunting and can often feel overwhelming with phrases like eco-anxiety, doomscrolling and general avoidance of the news becoming part of everyday conversation.



It is in moments like these that the importance of global awareness, solidarity, and local action comes into sharper focus, making the aim of the One World Centre more relevant than ever. Our role is to highlight key global issues in a manageable and meaningful way for our community.

Amidst all the humanitarian challenges, it is vital to find and share the positive news and emerging trends. Encouragingly despite funding pressures and political shifts, international organisations are increasingly focused on efficiency and value for money, humanitarian responses are becoming more targeted, digital tools are being integrated to improve delivery, and there is a growing commitment to accountability towards affected populations. In addition, this week has seen the 2nd African Climate Summit with the continent taking ownership of climate action, setting out ambitious pathways rather than waiting for the traditional political actors.

Over the coming year we, the One World Centre, will need to be even more resourceful in our partnerships and adaptable in our programmes as we raise these issues and encourage people with ways to respond to them. It is especially important to continue to inspire our young people and set them on a path of global connectedness. It was therefore exciting to see record participation from school teams in this year's Charity Challenge – a testament to their compassion, energy and interest.

Looking ahead, uncertainty remains, but so does our commitment. I am deeply grateful to our Coordinator, Committee Members, partners, and volunteers for their commitment, time, ideas and friendship.

Claire Bader, September 2025

Our work in 2024-2025

It has been a busy year with a full programme of activities that has stretched across many age groups and different demographics in our quest to raise awareness of global issues and positive action to the people of the Isle of Man. Whilst we continue to work closely with schools, we also seek to engage with people in other settings such as speaking engagements, film screenings and events like our Global Village. In a time of growing conflict, intolerance and environmental threat, we believe our service is as important as ever.

Key projects

One World Charity Challenge

After a record entry of 32 teams in 2023-24, we did not think we could surpass the number of students taking part in our annual One World Charity Challenge, only to find that we had 35 teams signed up for the 2024-25 edition! This was even more impressive given that this year only five of the Island's six secondary schools participated and it meant we had c. 150 16-17 year olds actively engaging in development education and global citizenship issues.



One of our flagship programmes, One World Charity Challenge tasks teams of Year 12 students to choose, research and advocate for a charity that is working in the field of international development and to deliver a 10-12 minute multi-media presentation reflecting on the work of their chosen charity, how it makes a positive difference to young people in other parts of the world and how it meets the UN Sustainable Goals to help ensure a fairer world for everyone.



After some close contests at the in-school heat level, the five finalists delivered their presentations at Babbage's before a live audience including Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer, members of Tynwald, other educators and family members.

The winners were a team from Ballakermeen High School representing Gumboot Foundation UK, a charity set up to address poverty and AIDS-related issues in townships and rural areas of South Africa by improving education, nutrition, empowerment and well-being. Their lively and engaging presentation saw them collect the top prize of £1,500 for their charity as well as the Frances Davidson cup. This is the fourth year in a row that teams from Ballakermeen High School have taken the top spot!

Second place were the team from St Ninian's High School representing Street Child, a charity that works across the world to ensure children are safe, in school and learning. It was clear this team had really engaged with the charity and, among other things, had taken part in a youth summit looking at the issues Street Child deals with. They won £1,250 for their charity.



Third place went to the team from King William's College representing Livingstone Trust Tanzania, another charity which helps overcome barriers to education. They picked up £1,000 for this charity which has now changed its name to Mikuyu Tanzania.

The remaining two finalists were teams from QEII High School representing Action Village India and

Castle Rushen High School representing Seed Madagascar. They both won £750 for their charities with the team from Castle Rushen also picking up the £1,000 AFD Award for Advocacy for their fantastic work in raising awareness of Seed Madagascar in the local community.

Judges for the evening included Lady Lorimer, Ramsey Grammar School headteacher Sonia Taylor, Phil Craine from the One World Centre and Jasmine Cowin, a former Charity Challenge contestant now working for Isle of Man Government. The prizes were kindly presented by the Lieutenant Governor.

Thanks are due to the various funders who supported this project – these include Isle of Man Government, Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust, Elizabeth Clucas Charitable Trust and AFD Software Ltd.



Student feedback from the event was very positive (with confidence, team work and presentation skills being cited as valuable learnings) and the great take up from all the schools this year was a brilliant indication of the value of this project to students, schools and the charities concerned.

Our evaluation showed:

- *97% of students agreed or strongly agreed their knowledge of how charities work had increased*
- *96% of students agreed or strongly agreed their understanding of international development had improved*
- *84% of students agreed or strongly agreed they were more likely to be interested in global issues in the future*

"I feel like I've gained a greater knowledge on how unfortunate others can be as well as felt more appreciation for everything I have."

"I gained a bigger sense of empathy because I think other people deserve to be heard and listened to. I kept believing that I am lucky enough to start helping others as well."

"I gained a deeper understanding of how charities work and how global issues seriously affect other people and countries"

"It is very fulfilling to be able to take part in changing people's perspectives and encourage them. You should get involved even if you are not confident in presenting because it builds life skills that all around make you a better person to take action themselves, to be a source of good and kindness to the world."

Global Village

With the kind permission of DEFA, we were able to stage another Global Village in the Arboretum on Tynwald Day 2025. This is an event for the general public to enjoy with food, song, dance and music from around the world and the opportunity to find out more from organisations working in international and sustainable development.



This year's event was the most successful yet with an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 attendees (the number could be higher as there is no direct way of tracking visitors). There was a great set of performances on the stage – including Sambamann, Brazilian music, Thai and Bulgarian dancing, the didgeridoo and several Manx bands. We were also joined by a Bolivian singer who sang ballads from her native country.

There were eight foodstalls offering Thai, AfroCaribbean, Ukrainian and Filipino hot food as well as crepes, gelato, bratwurst and hot potatoes. 13 charities, NGOs and environmental groups attended giving visitors the opportunity to learn about their work and how they could get involved.

We invested in new banners for the event this year which allowed us to direct people more easily from the top Tynwald Fairfield and we

ran a small Facebook campaign to raise the profile/encourage interest in the run up to the day. There was good media coverage and interviews about the Global Village were filmed by both BBC and ITV crews.

At the One World Centre stand, we took the opportunity to pilot some new resources around migration and also highlighted the work of the Welcome Project and promoted our SDG Art Competition.



Fairtrade

Our work in promoting trade justice through Fairtrade continued in 2024-25 with a further Fairtrade Primary Conference and activities during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Teams from 12 local primary schools attended this year's Fairtrade Primary Conference enjoying a full day of learning about the importance of trade justice, the impact of climate change and need for sustainable farming practices. Held in Legislative Buildings, as usual, with the kind permission of the President of Tynwald, the students took part in a number of different workshops, including a debate in the Tynwald Chambers, and listened to our keynote speaker, Linda from OMA Sustainable Living, about how her Latvian grandmother's values had inspired her own interest in fair trade and sustainable production.



The conference encourages schools to hold their own activities in Fairtrade Fortnight and we were pleased to receive emails from St Johns and Bunscoil Ghaelgħ reporting back on work they had done during Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 following their attendance at the previous year's conference.

OWC's primary activity during the fortnight was a stand at the Strand Shopping Centre where we featured a Fairtrade "tree" made from "leaves" containing messages about Fairtrade created by conference attendees. The stand was well received and got plenty of visitors with the help of a volunteer in a banana costume. Over 140 entries were received in the accompanying Fairtrade goodies competition which gave us over 140 opportunities for a conversation about Fairtrade.

We also supported schools with resources and highlighted Fairtrade issues on our social media.

Teacher highlights from the conference:

"Children being able to debate in the Tynwald Chamber was a great experience for them."

"All of the keynote speakers were very child friendly at delivering their activity."
"Seeing our children contributing and being enthusiastic."

"Day and sessions were well organised. I thought the Tea & Fairtrade Premium was engaging for the children. The tasks were both well planned and good fun. Lots of great discussion."

The Welcome Project

This project, run in collaboration with Café Lingo and funded by the Manx Lottery Trust, seeks to understand the potential issues and problems for people moving to the Isle of Man and supporting them on their journey. Begun in 2022, it was put on hold in 2023 due to staffing issues and restarted in October 2024 when a new Project Officer was appointed.

Building on the work done in the initial phase, the current Project Officer has sought to research the issues affecting new arrivals and their integration while highlighting opportunities for community involvement. She has also continued to support Café Lingo. A separate report on this project will be produced at the end of the project term.



SDG Art Competition



This year's theme was SDG 14 Life Below Water which linked to our status as a UN Biosphere and also took advantage of the release of Sir David Attenborough's new film *Ocean*. Launched under the title Save our Seas, young people were invited to create a poster drawing attention to action that could be taken to keep our rivers, seas and oceans clean and healthy. A whopping 335 entries were received – the highest entry numbers ever – and we will be holding a display of the winning entries in September/October.



Other projects and activities

Talk by UN Human Rights Investigator Ken Corlett

Following Ken's appearance as part of a trio of speakers celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in early 2024, there was a lot of demand to hear more about his work as a war crimes investigator in Bosnia-Herzegovina (the former Yugoslavia) as well as his time in Lebanon and as Chief Investigator for UNRWA, the agency responsible for Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.



So we were delighted to host a further talk by Ken at the Erin Arts Centre on Human Rights Day in October. With almost 100 seats booked before the event, Ken gave a sobering presentation on the challenges – and importance – of bringing those responsible for human rights abuses to justice.

There were lots of questions and many people stopped to say they appreciated the opportunity to hear more on Ken's experiences.

Migration

Negative attitudes about migration - and misinformation about it - were identified as a potential topic for us to explore this year in addition to the work planned through the Welcome Project.

The first phase of this was a photo exhibition *In Exile* featuring photographs from independent

photographer Vincent Tremeau who documented the journeys of a number of different people displaced by conflict. This was displayed at Isle of Man Airport from January to March 2025 and then at Erin Arts Centre in April.



We also hosted screening of *Five Years North*, a movie that followed the coming-of-age story of Luis, an undocumented Guatemalan boy who struggles to work and study in New York City while evading the American Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer.

The second phase saw the development of a pilot resource 'Manx or Migrant' which was exhibited at the Global Village and created a talking point with many visitors. This is currently being developed into a schools resource which will also feature the story Manx migrants to the US in the 1800s and encourage students to explore modern migration to and from the Isle of Man.

Climate Change



We were delighted to welcome adventurer and climate activist James Levelle to the Isle of Man in April, in collaboration with Isle of Man Friends of the Earth. James gave a public talk about his film *Race for the Future* which followed his exploits in travelling from the UK to Santiago in Chile for a COP Climate Conference, collecting messages from young people along the way.

The talk at Erin Arts Centre was full capacity and James also spoke separately to geography students at Ballakermeen and Castle Rushen High Schools and adapted his talk for visual creative media students at UCM. James enjoyed his time in the Isle of Man and also took part in a Beach Buddies beach clean at Ramsey.

"James' visit to UCM was inspirational, informative and valuable. He went to a lot of trouble to adapt his presentation to make it relevant to their studies and create a relaxed and welcoming session that they all thoroughly enjoyed. He spoke to the group in a way that was appropriate for their level of learning and brought it home to our students that as well as being a practical pathway into industry,

their media qualification can offer exciting opportunities to fulfil their dreams and aspirations.” UCM tutor

“Before Easter, the Geography Department were delighted to welcome James Levelle to our Year 12 lesson to deliver an inspiring talk about his adventures.

James is an award-winning adventure film maker who, amongst other things, set out in 2019 on a fossil fuel free 7000-mile journey from the UK to Chile, using cycling, sailing, hiking and horse riding to get to the UN Climate Change conference. Along the way he documented the voices of young people with a view to delivering their messages to the United Nations.

The students really enjoyed talking with James and we would like to pass our thanks to Wendy Shimmin from the [One World Centre Isle of Man](#) for organising this for us!” Ballakermeen High School

DEC Appeals



Two DEC Appeals were called during this period – for the Middle East (Gaza and region) and the Myanmar Earthquake. Street collections were organised for both of these with £2,222 collected for the Middle East Appeal and £2,517 for Myanmar. These were both lower amounts than usual which is a reflection of economic circumstances, fewer people carrying cash and possibly less empathy with these particular crises. We were grateful for Douglas Town Centre Management, Tesco and others for allowing us to collect and it was fantastic to be invited to Songkran festival at the Isle of Man Thai temple to talk about the appeal for Myanmar. Thanks also to all our volunteers who helped with collections.



Global Teacher Award

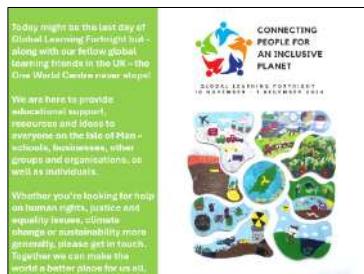


A further one-day course was offered to local teaching staff with four primary teachers attending to learn about the role of global learning in the classroom and the skills it helps develop such as critical thinking, critical literacy, cooperation, tolerance and empathy.

Feedback was excellent and we have now had 26 teachers in total attend this course and take their learning back to their schools.

“Wonderfully informative and inspiring! Lots of resources – books and online. The day was really well-paced and collaborative!” Teacher feedback.

Ongoing projects and activities



Global Learning Fortnight – A two-week social media campaign that highlighted how local organisations were responding to the theme “Connecting People for an Inclusive Planet”.

Mighty Movies – A series of films from other cultures shown in collaboration with Douglas City Library.

Ad-hoc work with schools – One-off lessons and presentations as requested (e.g. Fairtrade, Rainforests). Also support of Eco Schools teacher training.



Modern Slavery – Following the launch of our awareness-raising poster campaign in autumn 2024, there was demand for a second reprint and these have been distributed to offices, shops and other locations around the Island. We continue to monitor this topic carefully with a view to offering further support to the local community.

Collaboration

We recognise that changing hearts and minds for a positive future is a collaborative effort and have worked with many other groups and organisations on and off the Island this year. This includes:

- UN Biosphere Isle of Man
- Isle of Man Fairtrade Group
- Isle of Man Friends of the Earth
- Amnesty International Fairtrade Group
- Manx Wildlife Trust
- Department of Education, Sports and Culture
- Fairtrade Foundation
- The Global Learning Network

We also continue to network and advocate for local charities working in sustainable and international development.

Funding

We are grateful to all those who have supported us with funding over the past year. Like many other charities, we continue to find the funding landscape challenging especially as we are largely limited to funders on the Isle of Man.

We held a charity quiz in November 2024 which raised approximately £500 and intend to repeat this in late 2025. As always, we are open to new ideas on how we can fund our work and amplify our message. In line with our values we have an ethical fundraising policy which you can find on our website.

Keep up with all the news!

We are on Facebook, Instagram and online at www.oneworldcentreiom.org

We send regular newsletters to all our members and those on our mailing list. Please check your spam and “promotion” folders if you are not receiving these!