

HARTLEPOOL FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE

Minutes 10 November 2014

Present: C Eddowes, S Deacon, L Fletcher, M Green, R Eddowes, D Wanduragala, K Gorton

Apologies: W White, M Unwin, S Atkinson, I Green

Minutes 13 October 2014: Accepted as a true record. Minutes of the AGM 8 September should have recorded "Keith Gorton to become Secretary" and not "Michael to become Secretary".

Matters Arising

- **Hunger for Justice**

Event held on 18 October at St Georges. Unfortunately, I. Wright MP was unable to attend as he was participating in a Low Pay march. He has been given the questions that were to be addressed on the 18th & he has answered them. I wright has indicated that he is happy to meet the Group on another occasion. The Hartlepool Mail had published a large article about the event.

LF suggested that the Group might look at other means of publicising events, for example, a poster or banner outside the Church. The Group agreed to look into it.

ACTION: CE to send LF photographs of the event to LF to put on website.

CE suggested that our concerns about the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) should be raised with our MP & MEPs. KG reported that an article in the Guardian on 5 November <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/04/british-government-leading-gunpowder-plot-democracy-eu-us-trade>, suggested that worldwide objections were growing & could be effective.

ACTION: KG to write to MEPs regarding TTIP to express the Group's concerns & need for intervention and to send copy to I Wright MP.

- **NE-CAP Lecture.** LF reminded the Group about the high profile & significant lecture & asked members to go if possible.

The second NEWCASTLE JUBILEE DEVELOPMENT LECTURE

Thursday 27th November, 2014, at 5.30pm

Curtis Auditorium, Newcastle University

To be delivered by MR KEVIN WATKINS, Executive Director of the Overseas Development Institute

With closing remarks by Mr John Grundy, writer and broadcaster

Special Guests, H.E. Mr Joselyn Raphael Whiteman, High Commissioner for Grenada, and Mrs Lydia Whiteman

Chair, Professor Chris Brink, Vice-Chancellor

Fairtrade

- MG reported that he had attended an inspiring F/T conference in London on 15 October. Next year's F/T Fortnight (28 February to 8 March) theme would be "Back to Basics" & would focus on tea, cocoa & coffee.
- CE reported that she will be attending training on 26 Nov. for the new "F/T School status" scheme.
- MG said that the LA has promised to give £300 to the Fair Trade Town Steering Group – the money has come from North & Central councillors.
- Jenny Medhurst will be running a Christmas period FairTrade shop in the Dundas Arcade, Middlesbrough. Her F/T shops have accumulated a remarkable turnover of £1,25M !

Fairtrade Pop-Up Shop will be held on Saturday 29 November at St Georges from 10 am to 12 pm. Volunteers required from 9 am.

Correspondence

- CE reported on the topic of Ghana & sterile seeds used by plant breeders. I Wright had replied to the Group with a copy of the letter he had sent to Justine Greening. There had been no reply so far from Justine Greening.
- Campaigning material had been received from WDM regarding "modern colonisation of Africa" by land-grab. The Group agreed that this matter should be brought to the attention of I Wright when he meets the Group.

AOB

- KG raised concerns about the decisions made by the EU & the UK Government regarding refugees crossing the Mediterranean. Italy had shouldered the burden of rescuing refugees but had now ceased its "Mare Nostrum" exercise. The EU will carry out patrols but only in coastal waters with no remit to rescue refugees & the UK's contribution will be to provide one officer to monitor refugee movements. The Group agreed that our concerns should be raised with our MP & MEPs.

ACTION: KG to write to MP & MEPs.

Next Meeting: 8th December at 7.30 with mince pies !