

Annual Report September 2015



The group has had a very varied year, covering quite a few different causes and events.

Hartlepool for Global Peace and Justice are affiliated to NE-CAP and several members attended the Second NE-CAP Jubilee Development Lecture in Newcastle which was given by Kevin Watkins the Executive Director of the Overseas Development Institute.

Members also attended NE-CAP's Annual General Meeting in March and gave a report of our group's activities over the previous year.

In October the group arranged a Hunger for Justice event which was to be attended by Iain Wright MP but unfortunately it coincided with the Low Pay March held in London. The event was poorly attended and made us think again about publicity.

We did meet up with Iain Wright in January when he attended one of our meetings and discussed Tax Avoidance, Climate Change and TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). This last item was really brought to our attention through Global Action Now (formerly WDM) It is a complicated but far reaching issue which threatens to make all kinds of huge changes mostly for the benefit of Multi-national Conglomerates and the detriment of many poorer countries, though the proposed changes will affect us too. It has become one of our leading concerns and there have been letters to our MEPs and MP from the group about it. There is growing worldwide objections to it.

Other letters to our MEPS have included objecting to the cessation of the Mare Nostrum exercise, rescuing refugees crossing the Mediterranean and the government's offer of one officer to

monitor refugee movements, climate change and the UK's role in refugee resettlement. Iain Wright has been copied into these letters and we have also written to him about sterile seeds and violence against women.

We also met up with him in London when members travelled to join the Climate Change Protest on 17th June. On April 28th, the group organized a hustings for the General Election in St. George's Church. Nearly all of the candidates attended and, after they were given 2 minutes each to introduce themselves, a lively debate ensued with questions which had been handed in at the beginning of the evening. Thanks are due to Keith Bayley of HVDA who chaired the meeting.

The group's involvement in Fair Trade continued with the Fairtrade Pop Up Christmas Shop on November 29th and helping out in Fairtrade Fortnight.

Members have also attended other meetings involved with fair trade and also meetings held by two of our MEPs.

All in all it has been a very busy year and indications are that there are still lots of actions to be taken to meet our aims of a fairer, safer world.



Some group members lobbying Iain Wright MP outside Parliament in June

Contact: Chris Eddowes tel. 269412

Meetings: Second Monday of the month 7.30pm St. George's United Reformed Church, York Rd. All welcome.