

# MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY NORTH EAST

## A review of the past year for the Annual General Meeting February 1st 2010

This review covers events and issues from the last year – from February 2009 until end of January 2010. It also includes the financial statement for the year.

### **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY *North East* in context**

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY *North East*** is an association of people in the north east of England who continue to promote the aims and activities of the national **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** campaign which formally disbanded in 2006. That is, to demand that our government, and indeed the governments of the world, should act to alleviate poverty for the world's poorer countries by:

- Trade justice
- Dropping the debt
- Providing more and better aid
- Curbing climate change
- Promoting Fairtrade

The committee of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY *North East*** is made up of individuals, some of whom represent local branches of aid agencies, development agencies, and similar organisations.

All members of the committee, and all activists, campaigners and supporters are volunteers and receive no payment from **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY *North East***.

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY *North East*** is not a fundraising organisation. It acts mainly as a campaigning organisation. However, a small budget is needed to continue the work. Therefore, a financial statement is included in this annual review.

Many people support **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY *North East***. For example, by joining in and supporting campaigning events and similar activities. The mailing list, which reflects the activity of the organisation, now stands at several hundred.

## Event highlights over the year

### 26th February – ‘Hope for Planet Earth’ came to Newcastle

Leading experts from the John Ray Initiative explored the science behind climate change and dispelled the associated myths. Tearfund looked at the effects on the poor and A Rocha examined the effects on our planet.

**Hope for Planet Earth**  
A national tour exploring the effects of climate change

**Brunswick Methodist Church**  
Brunswick Place, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 7BJ  
Thursday 26th February 2009

Doors open at 7:00pm  
Presentations commence at 7:30pm  
and finish by 9:30pm  
For general information: 020 8781 1741

Tickets in advance: £6 adults; £3 under 18's  
Tickets on the door: £7 adults; £4 under 18's  
Available on-line at [www.faihtickets.co.uk](http://www.faihtickets.co.uk)  
or call 020 8781 1740 (office hours)

[www.hopeforplanetearth.co.uk](http://www.hopeforplanetearth.co.uk)  
23rd February - 13th March 2009

## 28 March – March in London to ‘Put People First’

Put People First is a coalition of development charities, trade unions, faith groups, environmentalists and other organisations, formed in response to call for a fair, sustainable route out of recession.

On April 2 2009, the leaders of the world’s richest economies met in London for the G20 summit, to discuss their response to the economic crisis.

Put People First organised a major national march and rally in London on 28 March, ahead of the London G20 Summit, which aimed to:

1. Expose the undemocratic governance of the world’s most powerful economic institutions – the World Bank, IMF, central banks, and forums such as the G8 and G20.
2. Challenge the misguided belief in unregulated ‘free’ markets which has led to the current crisis and show that there are effective alternatives.
3. Turn world leader’s overtures about the need for change in the economic system in to concrete actions to benefit people and the environment.

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East** supported this event and representatives from the North East joined the march. Police estimated about 35,000 people attended the March.



See news reports

From the BBC

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7969932.stm>

From the Guardian

[www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/mar/28/g20-protest-police-rainbow-alliance](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/mar/28/g20-protest-police-rainbow-alliance)

From the Times

[www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/G20/article5991778.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/G20/article5991778.ece)

## As from March 2009....

North Tyneside is officially a 'Fairtrade borough'.

Several strong supporters of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East** were on the Steering Group, including:

- John Fleet, the North Tyneside's Town Centre Manager
- Alastair Menzies, a Director with Divine Chocolate
- David Golding, development co-ordinator of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East**

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## Bank Holiday 4th May - 'Just Say No' to 'Factories of Death'

This was a campaigning event at Cambois (nr Blyth) – organised by PANiC Stations. There were workshops and talks as well as a screening of climate change film 'The Age of Stupid', which was powered by pedalling bikes.

Cambois has a position of great symbolical and practical importance in the fight against climate chaos. The power station planned to be built at Cambois would probably have been the second to be built if the go-ahead had been given, and it would have belched out 20 million tonnes of CO2 each year!

See also what the Newcastle Journal said about the day.

[www.journallive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-news/2009/05/05/the-wheels-of-democracy-61634-23540931/](http://www.journallive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-news/2009/05/05/the-wheels-of-democracy-61634-23540931/)

In November 2009 RWE (the owners of the site) announced that they were postponing their plans for the new power station. They are not yet going to make a formal planning application for the plant, saying that the "time is not right for such a huge investment". A victory for campaigning?

Note: there seems to be emerging cross-party Support for North East Campaigners' Stance on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and New Coal. Three local MEPs...

- Martin Callanan MEP (Conservative)
- Fiona Hall MEP (Liberal Democrat)
- Stephen Hughes MEP (Labour)

have indicated their broad support for the position adopted by **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East** on CCS and new coal-fired power stations.

Power stations such as that at Blyth would "fly in the face of reason" - without 100% CCS, they're "killers", says local MEP Fiona Hall.

## September 20th - Great North Run

And for yet another year, the run was on a glorious, sunny day - not bad for September. Over 40 competitors ran for various organisations affiliated to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East**. For GNR accounts – see appendix 2.



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## Friday 16th - Sunday 18th October - Stand Up Against Poverty

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East** supporters joined with over 173 Million people world-wide at "*Stand Up, Take Action, End Poverty Now!*" events, setting a new world record for largest mobilisation in history.

### Why Stand Up?

In 2000, leaders of 189 countries signed the Millennium Declaration agreeing to do everything in their power to end poverty. They pledged to do this by achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a roadmap to end extreme poverty by 2015. Still, every day, thousands of die as a result of extreme poverty and the gap between rich and poor people is increasing. Campaigners worldwide STAND UP and TAKE ACTION to push their governments for more and better aid, debt cancellation, education for all boys and girls, healthcare, trade justice, gender equality and public accountability.

For details of all the events world-wide see <http://standagainstpoverty.org>

## Autumn Roadshow

Supporters brought **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East** to their own neighbourhoods, with a series of diverse events, which included:

- 10th September - Stannington (with Womens Institute)
- 4th October - Bedlington (Bedlington Christian Fellowship)
- 10th October - Hartlepool (Peace & Justice Group)
- 16th October - Whitley Bay (incorporating Stand Up action with parliamentary candidates)
- 9th November - St Mary's Parish Centre, Whickham: "The Great Endeavour – The fight against climate change"; with Dr David Golding. Open Meeting convened by Mothers Union
- 16th November - Customs House, South Shields "Age of Stupid" film
- 16th November - Newcastle University: "Climate Justice", with the Bolivian Ambassador, a speaker from Equity Bangladesh, and Nick Dearden, Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign.
- 18th November - St John's College, Durham. With Paul Brannen, Head of Campaigns at Christian Aid; Mark Dowd, Operation Noah; Gemma Bone, UK Youth Delegate to Climate Conference; and Revd Dr David Wilkinson, Principal St John's College.
- 24th November - Newcastle Quaker Meeting House "Climate & Coal", with Dr David Golding
- 25th November: "Amnesty International's Film Evening"
- 28th November: "The Road to Copenhagen", with Dr David Golding, Trinity Methodist Church

Several topics were addressed in these various meetings and there were opportunities for discussion and for people to sign campaign cards, etc.

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## December 5th - Fairtrade Christmas Market

Various groups affiliated to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY North East** had a stall at the now annual Fairtrade Christmas Market in the Grainger market, Newcastle. This has become a popular annual event.

## December 5th - 'The Wave'

Organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition - [www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org)  
This was a massive event – estimated attendance varied from 30 to 50 thousand. Many people from the North East travelled down to join in.

The Wave sent a strong message to Gordon Brown and other world leaders that we need ambitious carbon emissions reductions by 2020.



## Appendix 1 – Accounts

Date	Description	Paid in (£)	Paid out (£)	Balance (£)
<b>01 January 2009</b>				<b>596.20</b>
06 February 2009	Newcastle University Chaplaincy (for Prayer Breakfast)	431.00		1,027.20
06 February 2009	Newcastle University Chaplaincy	50.00		1,077.20
24 March 2009	Heaton Baptist Church*	75.00		1,152.20
04 April 2009	D. Golding's expenses ( P. Vallely's expenses & Feb. mailing )		330.81	821.39
04 June 2009	Rotary Club*	10.00		831.39
19 June 2009	North Shields Probus Club*	15.00		846.39
19 June 2009	Tynemouth Regent Club*	15.00		861.39
19 June 2009	Durham Diocese*	100.00		961.39
10 July 2009	Jubilee Debt Campaign (for newsletter)	150.00		1,111.39
13 July 2009	M. Waller's expenses ( stamps )		3.60	1,107.79
07 September 2009	D. Golding's expenses ( July newsletter & other mailing )		385.50	722.29
29 October 2009	Jubilee Debt Campaign (for newsletter)	275.50		997.79
29 October 2009	Bedlington Evangelical Church*	25.00		1,022.79
29 October 2009	Brunswick Club*	15.00		1,037.79
29 October 2009	Stocksfield Baptist Church*	40.00		1,077.79
27 November 2009	Anonymous donor	50.00		1,127.79
07 December 2009	D. Golding's expenses ( Oct newsletter & other mailing )		529.32	598.47
23 December 2009	Mary Swindell (to support travel to "The Wave")	200.00		798.47
23 December 2009	Newcastle University Chaplaincy (for Climate Justice event)	100.00		898.47
23 December 2009	Whickham Mothers Union*	25.00		923.47
<b>31 December 2009</b>				<b>923.47</b>

Note:

\* Donations for DWG's speaking engagements

## Appendix 2 - Great North Run 2009

**Team Patrons**, Professor Chris Brink (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Sir George Alberti and Jonathan Edwards CBE

Jubilee Debt Campaign's Great North Run initiative is organised by JDC at Newcastle University in association with Make Poverty History NE, and the runners' t-shirts bear the insignia of the latter. JDC provides the capital to purchase our 25 places (£1,468.09 in 2009) and this sum was recouped by selling the places to runners at cost price. Runners who have obtained their own places independently are also encouraged to join the team.

The great majority of runners raise sponsorship money for JDC (50%), and an aid agency (50%) of their own choice. We advertise a choice from Cafod, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief, Oxfam, Save the Children and Tearfund, but try to be as flexible as we can. Sponsors can donate via sponsorship forms which we supply, or donate on-line via a JustGiving account set up for this purpose by JDC. The aid agencies are requested to use the money for their work in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the care of AIDS orphans.

A small number of 'own place' runners raise sponsorship independently for a charity they support, but provide most welcome support by joining the team and making personal donations to JDC.

The only 'expenses' involved in the initiative this year were the charges made by JustGiving and the cost of the runners' T-shirts, in certified Fairtrade cotton, purchased from T-shirt and Sons (Traidcraft is no longer able to supply us). Both were met by JDC alone (but note that JDC alone benefits from donations eligible for Gift Aid). T-shirts cost £569.83 in 2009, just over 5% of the money raised, although we now have quite a few in hand.

46 registered for the team, of whom two dropped out with illness or injury before the Run; I have received nothing from five others, four of whom have failed to respond to my enquiries. [However, two non-runners supported the initiative by making donations to JDC and are treated as 'virtual runners' in the numbers cited below]. As before, team photo's were arranged on the morning of the Run and individual 'shattered but triumphant' shots were taken at the finish.

Payments to the charities made in January '10 were as follows:

Cafod	2 runners	£335.50
Christian Aid	2 runners	£120.50
Light In Africa	1 runner	£75.00
Medact	1 runner	£87.50
Oxfam	12 runners	£1,384.00
Save the Children	10 runners	£758.75
Tearfund	9 runners	£1,165.50
Jubilee Debt Camp'n	4 runners	£4,781.75

**Sum of finance raised: Total £10,397.00** (£8,708.50, plus Gift Aid, approx. £1,688.50).

This compares with: '02, £3,834; '04, £12,386; '05, £13,621, '06, £18,268, '07, £16,449; '08, £14,993

**Total to date, £89,966.**

The financial year for the Great North Run account ends 28<sup>th</sup> February, after which the account will be independently audited and copies made available to the Treasurer and Vice-Chair.

In addition to the above, I have received the support of University staff to finance concessions for students. Half the cost of entry was returned to each runner upon receipt of at least £150 of sponsorship money, and 100% for £250. A total of £417 was paid out this year. This is a valuable aid to recruitment to the team and seems entirely 'in the spirit of Jubilee'. It occasions some astonishment among the prospective beneficiaries, particular when they are informed of the source of funding!

David Golding, 25.01.10