

8 JULY 2011

EAST LANCASHIRE GOES GLOBAL

Exhibition and UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals
Monday 20th June – Friday 1st July 2011

Burnley & Pendle Faith Centre

In partnership with



PROJECT TEAM

Joe Howson & Priya Garg – Global Link Iain Midgley & Roger Lang – CLEO
Brian Johnson & Sarah Hetherington – Lancashire Global Education Centre
Hilary Shaw – Lancashire County Council Terry Murnane – Burnley & Pendle Faith Centre

VIDEO CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Nicola Harrington-Buhay – Deputy Director of the UN Development Programme (Brussels)
Nigel Evans MP – Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and MP for Ribble Valley
Dr Allison Beattie – Health Advisor for the Department for International Development
Rachel Carnegie – Secretary for International Development at Lambeth Palace, London
Swantatra Gupta – Manager Alliances for The Smile Foundation, Delhi, India
Jessica Espey – Development Policy Advisor for Save the Children based in London
Louise Holly – Advocacy Adviser for Save the Children based in London

In life, we are sometimes fortunate enough to work with people of like mind, people who want to make a difference, people who want to push back the frontiers. Our ambitious 2-week programme titled 'East Lancashire Goes Global' was a first class example of all of the above – and much more. The dream? To encourage our young people and wider community to become more global in their thinking – beyond East Lancashire, beyond England, beyond the UK and out into the 5 continents of our shrinking global village.

The hook? The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Why – well just look at the situation in East Africa at this moment, where thousands and thousands of children face starvation. The first of eight MDGs is all about Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger.

And so our wonderful students from across East Lancashire immersed themselves fully in global discussions about the real global challenges which beset our world – the right for every child to have primary education; for every mother have improved maternal health; for women and men to be respected and treated equally; to reduce child mortality; to combat deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Malaria; to ensure environmental sustainability and within all of this, to develop a global partnership for development.

How heart warming to see our young people learning so much about their adopted countries in Africa, Asia and South America, ever conscious of other problems which exist in the other two continents of our world as well. How uplifting to see them listen, learn, assimilate, discuss, debate and then argue their case strongly to have their MDG adopted at the end of the UN Conference. I would propose that the corridors of power at the UN in New York had nothing on the passion we witnessed during our two weeks of UN Summits. And we got a result each day too!! Why? Because Mrs Jill Yates, cousin of Bill Gates, was on hand to offer \$millions if there was a majority vote was achieved amongst delegates.

So, a big thank you to our participating schools – to the teachers and our wonderful young people who gave of themselves – and more. Already there is talk of a network being set up between them to look further at this 'real' issues and the difference our young people in particular can make. Taking the information and facts to action.

Special thanks to our VC speakers from across Britain and the Globe, who were such a special part of the day's programme, sharing their thoughts and life experiences on the global issues that affect us. It would be wrong to single out any one of our speakers, they were all absolutely fantastic, conscious of the time and effort to set up these valued links.

And thanks too – as always – to our friends from the wider community, who joined us to view the exhibition and discover more. Who joined us for our Evening Celebration. And to those friends who were that interested and enthused that they spent the day with us at one of the UN Summits as International Observers and witnessed young people in action!

Finally, the Project Team itself , what can I say? Started as partners, became good friends, in so doing planned, prepared and most importantly, delivered a high quality product.

"...A world that is not advancing toward the Millennium Development Goals – a world mired in the deprivation of hunger, the prevalence of disease and the despair of poverty – will not be a world at peace."

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan