

- the economic motive for some Israeli settlements on land traditionally and still occupied by Palestinians and the ideological motive to assert control sometimes by intimidation and the influence of outside observers deterring and reducing intimidation.
- the role of money from the U.S. to Israel and whether the current administration's decision to deduct from its aid the cost of those sections of the new wall which are built off the 'agreed' line will affect Israeli policy.
- should there be a U.N. presence and should it consist of armed troops?
- what do ordinary Israelis and Palestinians feel about their political leaders?
- the remorse felt by some Jewish religious speakers who sense that injustice is eroding their people's relationship with God.



Matt Robson felt that he had freedom of movement for most of his time in the region except when he shared the constraints imposed on Palestinians.

Thanks to the generosity of the audience we were able to cover costs and send about £35 to the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme.

Photographs:

Opposite page: a section of the newly-constructed barrier. Above: Matt (left) addresses the meeting.

CYNEFIN Y WERIN (COMMON GROUND) DAYSCHOOL

On Saturday 4th October, three members of WPJF, (Genny, Tim and David) attended a dayschool in Newtown organised by Cynefin y Werin on the theme of **"Challenging Globalisation and Militarisation"**. Cynefin y Werin/Common Ground is a network of Welsh organisations that work together to promote peace, human rights, social justice and equality. The dayschool drew about 40 people from campaigning groups, churches and community groups and the aim of the day was *"to share knowledge, inspiration and ideas for future co-operation... working together, we CAN empower ourselves and others to resist global trends and build communities based on peace, justice and equality."* For more information about CyW, contact: claresainleyberry@wcia.org.uk.

The morning session was addressed by Jill Evans MEP (Plaid Cymru). The main theme of her talk was democracy and accountability. For example, European defence policy is formed by ministers and commissioners and is not debated by the European Parliament. Jill spoke of her recent trip to the WTO talks in Cancun, Mexico, which she attended as a protester/observer. She pointed out that EU policy at the talks was formed by unelected commissioners who conducted the vital trade negotiations in secret. The talks "collapsed", Jill said, because the poor countries refused to be dominated by the rich, and would not give in to their fundamentally undemocratic demands to dominate the markets of the world.

The EU is in favour of the privatisation of services across the world and against the regulation and protection of human rights, the environment and GMOs. However,

communities and regions like Wales can have a positive influence in the world, for example by refusing GMOs. Jill concluded by recommending the 10 principles of the Green/European Free Alliance Group in the European Parliament, see www.greens-efa.org/en/. Following Jill's talk, we split into workshop groups to discuss how to campaign locally on issues around globalisation.

After lunch, we heard from Mark Curtis, author of *"Web of Deceit"*. His presentation was similar to the one given at our public meeting in September. Mark outlined a vision of a democratic foreign policy, achieved by grass-roots action, rather than one formed by unaccountable elites in Downing St and Washington. After Mark's talk, we split into smaller groups again to discuss local campaigning for Peace. Some of the themes and ideas that emerged were: to link CyW with the new anti-war co-ordinating group Grass Roots Opposition to War (GROW); to campaign against anti-terrorist laws which are now being used to deal with lawful protest; to work with civil bodies such as the UN Association; to put pressure on the Welsh Assembly and UK Government to stop the arms trade and to promote sustainability.

A big part of the meeting for us was the opportunity to meet activists from across Wales to share information and discuss ideas. We found out that a Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development has just been set up, that there is a Wales Against The Wall group campaigning against the Israeli state's apartheid wall, and there is a Wales-based company promoting fair-trade coffee vending machines www.cafevending.co.uk. All in all it was an excellent day: big thanks to Clare, Ben and CyW for organising it.