

Kelman, I. 2001. "RedR Cambridge Group". RedR Newsletter, no. 55, p. 5.

Full text:

For several years, the RedR Cambridge Group (RCG) has served as a meeting point for RedR members and potential members in Cambridgeshire and the surrounding counties. Members recently back from a mission give informal seminars on their work which not only lets their colleagues know what they have been doing, but which also introduces others to disaster relief, development and the work of RedR. Recently, RedR member Mark Buttle spoke of his year in Albania and Tim Holt compared his work in Orissa, India and Mozambique following flood disasters in each locale.

Although such field talks are an important core of RCG gatherings, other topics are also arranged to reflect the diversity of issues and challenges inherent in RedR work. Recent presentations have included:

- RedR trainer Toby Gould describing the Sphere Project (the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response at www.sphereproject.org) and facilitating a discussion on its merits.
- Rachel Battilana reporting results from her undergraduate engineering dissertation on a new cold-weather refugee shelter, which is part of a larger research project run by RedR member Tom Corsellis (see www.shelterproject.org).
- Journalists Brian and Jenny Deacon discussing the role of their profession in disaster situations—and how relief workers can stay on the good side of the media.

Not all events are in a lecture format. Tom Corsellis, for instance, coordinated a role-playing exercise whereby attendees were divided into groups representing aid agencies who, under time and resource constraints, were selecting a site for a refugee camp while being harassed by the media and locals living near the site.

RCG has also participated in local events, such as Refugee Day at Cambridge's Guildhall and the annual One World Works Career Fair. Stalls at these events have promoted the work, activities, and interests of RedR and have provided excellent opportunities for getting to know other local and national agencies with similar interests. RCG seems to be unique in supporting RedR in this manner and invites anyone to participate.

To receive notice of future events, or simply to ask any questions on the RedR Cambridge Group, contact Ilan Kelman at [contact details are now out of date].

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