



Annual Report April 2005-April 2006

Supporting the Most Vulnerable in Peru

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*The PSG aims to
promote the rights
and interests of the
people of Peru and in
particular its poorest
sectors*

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Executive Summary

2006 has been a year of elections throughout Latin America and none was followed more closely than that in Peru with the final two candidates going head to head in the polls and a very slim margin in the final round of voting. In July this year Alan Garcia was elected President of Peru, and not for the first time. He takes the helm of the Peruvian government for the second time, with a controversial track record, both in terms of his management of the economy and the human rights agenda; some say he could have a tough time keeping the Peruvian population on side.

In contrast to his heterodox first term in office, he is following a more orthodox policy this time, aligning his government closely with Washington both in terms of foreign and economic policy.

The administration has made some controversial moves, attempting to broaden the death penalty to include child abusers and threatening to pull out of the Inter American court on human rights to do it. – *see below short article which appeared in the PSG update on the death penalty for more info.*

There have been strong criticisms made of NGOs since the new government took office, and now with congress approving the modification to the law which created the APCI (Peruvian Association for International Cooperation) to give government control over the activities and the sources of funding of NGOs in Peru, there is great fear that this government will not uphold the rights of civil society in Peru to bring about democratic change.

Fujimori fled to Chile just over one year ago and remains there under house arrest and facing trial with the possibility of his extradition to Peru. Amazingly he seems to maintain his popularity amongst the electorate in Peru, his supporters in congress carrying a lot of weight and his daughter Keiko receiving the highest number of votes as congressperson. His brother Santiago also remains in Congress.

Mining has been an issue on everyone's lips this year as social conflict in areas where mining projects are located is on the increase. The concerns of many groups within Peru are that mining concessions are granted by central government to foreign and Peruvian companies without consultation with local communities who live or have the rights to that land. Regional governments and local authorities are concerned that without the opportunity to decide how and when they use their natural resources, they are unlikely to benefit from the potential wealth that can be generated and the subsequent development this can bring about.

In the Regional elections last month (November) the victors were, overwhelmingly, local figures running on local tickets for local sounding parties. Of 195 provinces, local groupings prevailed in 112, whilst APRA won only 16 and the Humala's Nationalist party (PNP) ten. Voters appear not only disenchanted with national political parties, but keen to support a strictly regional agenda.

Advocacy

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

The PSG met with the UK Ambassador to Peru in October 2005 to talk about Human Rights and highlight concerns raised by the PSG throughout the year. The PSG maintains communication with the FCO and continues to raise awareness through publications of key issues concerning the rights and interests of Peruvian people.

MPs & Peers in Westminster

As always, we have kept our contacts in Parliament informed of the current situation in Peru both through the Peru Update, and special briefings and supplementary publications.

We provided the Inter-Parliamentary Union British Group delegation with a detailed briefing of the human rights situation on Peru and put them in contact with the CNDDHH so that they were able to meet with them when they were in Lima. The delegation included Mr Bob Blizzard MP, Mrs Christine Russell MP, Lord Morris of Manchester, Mr Mark Pritchard MP, Mr David Wilshire MP and Baroness Thomas of Walliswood.

The relationship between the PSG and **Lord Alderdice** and **John Battle MP** who took part in the 2004 delegation continues to be strong. The PSG organised a meeting between the Peruvian Ambassador Luis Solari and Lord Alderdice and John Battle. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the advancement of the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to impress on the Ambassador the continued interest and support both Lord Alderdice and John Battle and the PSG have for the recommendations. They have remained as active members of the PSG, continuing to support our work.

We held a public meeting event in the Houses of Parliament to raise awareness of the concerns felt at a community level about UK mining activities in Peru (see more details below). The event was sponsored by **Michael Connarty MP**, the chair of the Parliamentary group on Peru, Chaired by **Lord Avebury** and attended by several MPs and members of the House of Lords including **Baroness Hooper**, **Jeremy Corbyn MP** and **Baroness Miller**.

Lord Avebury chaired our annual conference in November at Manchester University.

Interagency Group

The PSG continues to co-ordinate the Interagency Group among British based NGOs to work on how best to follow up on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and monitor common ground on other issues. In 2005/2006 PSG maintained contact with the group through individual meetings with members. The PSG continues to work in conjunction with several of the members on various themes.

The group includes representatives from the following NGOs:

- Amnesty International
- Christian Aid
- Catholic Institute for International Relations (CiiR)
- CAFOD
- Tearfund
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide
- Save the Children UK
- Oxfam GB
- Womankind Worldwide



European Platform for Peru - Plataforma Europea para Peru (PEP)

This was an initiative spearheaded by Solidaridad of Denmark, 11.11.11 of Belgium and the Peru Support Group. The objective was to bring together solidarity and advocacy groups as well as NGOs from across Europe who are working, or who wish to work, on the implementation of the recommendations of the final report of the TRC. We invited representatives from countries throughout Europe and the PEP now has 16 members from Holland, Belgium, UK, Germany, Sweden, France and Switzerland, and is hoping to continue to expand its network of organisations with similar goals.

The first meeting was in October 2005 in Brussels. The objective and the strategy for the group were discussed and we carried out our first lobbying activities at the European Commission where we lobbied Paola Amadei, Human Rights and Democratisation Unit of the EC and Maria Esmeralda Almeida-Teixeira of EuropeAid Co-operation Office of EC.

The second meeting was in February 2006 when we lobbied MEPs at the European Parliament. They were Luis Yáñez (Spain), who represents Latin America on the European Parliament commission for Exterior relations, Jean Marie Beaupuy (France), a member of the European Parliament delegation for Andean countries and Simon Coveney (Ireland). We hope that these lobbying activities will raise awareness of the Peruvian Truth Commission amongst MEPs and European Commissioners but that it might also lead to more action being taken at a European level in support of the final recommendations.

We hope that this initiative will reinforce the work of the PSG in the UK in terms of putting pressure on the Peruvian government to implement the recommendations of the TRC. We also hope that in the future, this platform will create a lasting network of Europe wide initiatives to support and uphold human rights on Peru.

Recent PSG publications have been of great use during this process. The publication on the TRC informed MEPs, commissioners and members of PEP. This year's publication on the 2006 elections and the human rights agenda (see below for more) raised awareness of the link between democracy and human rights and the importance and implications of the elections for the TRC recommendations.

Conferences, Meetings and Events

The PSG continued to organise and facilitate meetings and conferences with the aim of raising awareness amongst the British public and decision makers on issues concerning civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights including the following:

Make Poverty History Rally, 1-3 July 2005

The PSG accompanied Romulo Torres of The Peru Debt Campaign (Jubileo Peru) to meetings about debt campaigning and networking amongst other developing countries seeking debt relief. We participated in the mass rally where 250,000 people marched through the streets of Edinburgh near the site of the G8 meeting to demand debt relief, trade justice and more and better aid.

Mass Lobby for Trade Justice, 2 November 2005

Members of the Peru Support Group lobbied their MP on trade justice at this mass lobby of the UK Parliament organised by the Trade Justice Movement and the PSG coordinator stewarded at the event.

PSG Annual Conference 2005, 19 November 2005 **Peru – Opportunities for the Future**

This year the conference looked ahead at what the coming elections would bring, what opportunities it might afford the Peruvian people and what challenges may arise.

The keynote speaker was:

- **Eduardo Caceres**, long term human rights campaigner and South American Regional Advisor for Oxfam GB

There were also a number of workshops:

- Mining and Development with **Andrea Steel and Ines Rivasplata**, Kingston University and CEDEPAS
- Towards the 2006 elections with **John Crabtree**, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University
- Peru, Child Poverty and the Millennium Promise with **Paola Perezniето and Falguni Patel**, The Young Lives Project

University of East Anglia, Norwich **21 November 2005**

Eduardo Caceres spoke at UEA about human rights in Peru and the work of the Truth Commission. This event was aimed at expanding the PSG audience. The event was a great success and attended by over 70 people.

Worldfair, 2-3 December 2005

The PSG took part in the annual Worldfair, a two-day event held at the Camden Centre, organised by Oxfam GB, War on Want and the World Development Movement. Some 3,000 people came to buy fairly traded crafts and learn more about the different NGOs present at the fair.



**Human Rights Day, Weald School
6 December 2005**

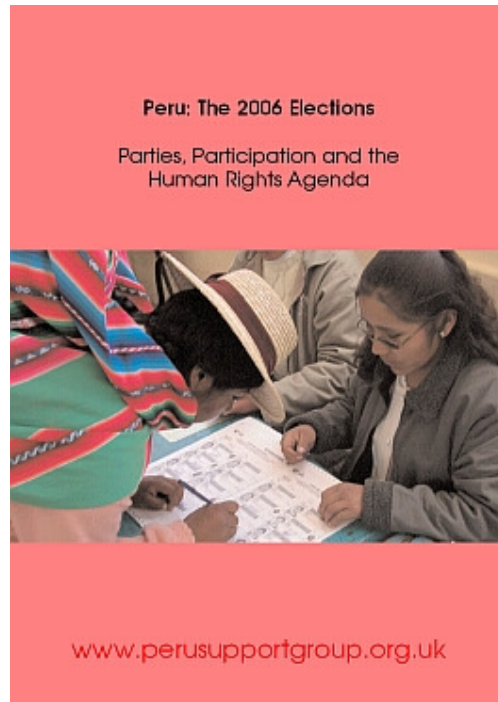
The PSG Coordinator gave a series of workshops throughout the day raising awareness amongst young people of the key issues that face Peru today.

**Parliamentary public meeting, 21 March 2006
The Impact of UK mining in Peru**

This event was hosted by **Michael Connarty MP** and chaired by **Lord Eric Avebury**. The speakers were Andrea Steel of Kingston University and Nicanor Alvarado of VIMA, a Peruvian Environmental organisation that campaigns for sustainable development in rural areas. The objective of the meeting was to raise awareness of the challenges that lie ahead for UK mining in Peru and give a platform in the UK to a community focused perspective. The meeting was well attended by NGOs that work on this issue and by interested peers and MPs. A full meeting report can be viewed at <http://www.perusupportgroup.org.uk/pdfs/uk-mining-in-peru.pdf>

Publications and Resources

Peru: The 2006 Elections, Politics, Participation and the Human Rights Agenda Published February 2006



The PSG continues to produce timely and useful publications. This year we produced a publication about the 2006 elections with a brief history of democracy in Peru, a guide to the main candidates and a focus on the unequivocal link between democracy and human rights in Peru.

The publication was produced in English as a hardcopy but also in Spanish as an electronic copy. It has been widely used throughout Europe by our colleagues within the PEP and especially as a briefing for MEPs and commissioners either with an interest in Peru, during lobbying meetings or when on delegations to Peru.

Photographic exhibition “Testimonies of Courage and Pain”

This exhibition produced last year is an English version of a photographic exhibition that was originally commissioned by the Project Counselling Service (an international NGO consortium based in Lima working on conflict and human rights issues and with displaced people) called “Testimonies of Courage and Pain”. The exhibition includes photographs and testimonies of women affected by political violence in Peru. It highlights the need for truth and reconciliation and the role that women can play in this.

The exhibition has been on display at universities used as a visual resource at a number of PSG events.

Photographic exhibition, “Peru on \$1 a Day: a Rough Guide to Living”

This 2001 PSG photographic exhibition addresses themes such as poverty, education, women’s rights, health, environmental pollution and debt repayment. It illustrates the social, economic, environmental and political hardships faced by the majority of Peruvians.

Information and Educational Resources

The Peru Update



UPDATE
Bulletin of the Peru Support Group
No. 114, February-March 2006

The aims of the PSG are to promote the rights and interests of the people of Peru, and in particular the poorer sectors

PERU SUPPORT GROUP

Editorial - The 2006 Election

By the time you read this, we may know the results of the first round of presidential elections, to be held on April 9. Even a week or so before, it was hard to know with any certainty who would come out on top. A second round, towards the end of May, seemed likely, since no candidates would probably win outright with a majority (50% plus one) of valid votes. But the candidate leading the polls in the crucial last days of the campaign appeared to be Ollanta Humala.

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For those concerned about human rights it has been a particularly disappointing

campaign... In spite of the devastating implications contained in the 2003 Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, the issue has hardly surfaced except insofar as Humala's advisers have sought to exploit his alleged war record as a military commander in the Alto Huallaga in the late 1980s... The PSG's appeal to the main presidential candidates to state how they intend to respond to the TRC's recommendations has - perhaps predictably - gone unanswered... (See the PSG publication - 'Peru: The 2006 Election')

Democratic values are not much in vogue in Peru these days... A recent report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) makes particularly depressing reading... This is a comprehensive survey of people's attitudes towards democratic institutions, across the country and from all sectors of the population... It shows what people think of the type of democracy they have, their lack of faith in representative institutions, the weakness of political organisations at the grass roots, and a deep-rooted pessimism - especially among the poor - about the prospects of a better future for themselves and their children.

The PSG's appeal to the main presidential candidates to state how they intend to respond to the TRC's recommendations has - perhaps predictably - gone unanswered

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Professor William Rowe	1
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President Lord Webber	1

The PSG newsletter, *The Peru Update*, continues to be produced on a bi-monthly basis with a print run of 500 copies. We use the Update as a way of keeping members and contacts of the organisation informed on issues of concern. The articles and news items in the Update are chosen to reflect our priorities. This year articles have focused on debt, drugs control and the impact of US policy, citizen security, mining, poverty, democracy, human rights and justice, the environment, the 2006 elections and the candidates, trade and corporate social responsibility as well as up to the minute news coverage. The Update provides an important forum for raising topics of interest and concern from a variety of contributors, and also allows members of the PSG and the general public to participate in the work of the PSG by taking part in letter-writing campaigns, workshops or cultural events. Selected articles from both the current Update and back copies are available on the PSG website at www.perusupportgroup.org.uk

Peru News

Peru News

Your monthly update on the rights and interests of the Peruvian people



JANUARY 2006 | ISSUE NO 007

THIS MONTH

PERU WARMS UP FOR ELECTION BATTLE; INDIGENOUS PRESIDENT FOR PERU?; GIRL WINS FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AT UN; AIRLINE BOSS IN JAIL; POLICE KILLED IN MINING REGION

Peru warms up for election battle

On January 9, the Peruvian elections enter their final phase as the deadline passes for the registration of presidential candidacies. The three-horse race of Alan García (APRA), Lourdes Flores (UN) and Valentín Paniagua (Frente del Centro) has been upset by the appearance of a rank outsider: Ollanta Humala. Some opinion polls in December put Humala in first place, ahead of Lourdes Flores. Humala is an enigmatic figure. Coming from a right-wing military background, his anti-establishment crusade has found him friends on the left who see him as the best bet for change. The Humala bandwagon was certainly enhanced by the victory of the left-wing indigenous candidate, Evo Morales, in Bolivia. One effect of the Humala phenomenon may be to convince candidates such as García to take a more radical left-of-centre line in appealing to the electorate.

Humala shows the depths of disillusion that exist in Peru with conventional party politics. Recent Latinobarómetro polls show that disaffection with the political class runs deeper in Peru than almost any other Latin American country. President Alejandro Toledo, who awoke strong hopes of a change of direction just five years ago, bears a great deal of responsibility for this.

The elections will take place in April 2006, just three months away, but it is still not clear who will take the lead.

JOIN NOW!
Become a member of the Peru Support Group and join a network of people in the UK committed to human rights and taking action in solidarity with Peruvian people. You will receive the bi-monthly PSG publication - *The Peru Update* - and copies of our special issue-led publications. You will also get the opportunity to contribute to our

**THE HUMALA PHENOMENON –
COULD HE BE PRESIDENT?**

A retired army colonel, with strong indigenous roots, has come from nowhere in the build up to Peru's general election next April to achieve 22% of voters' intended support.

Peru News is a new PSG initiative aimed at reaching out to a new audience of people who use the Internet to receive information and news. The first issue of Peru News was sent out in June 2005 to 83 email addresses (all of whom were taken from our current membership list). The e-bulletin has been going out every month since and now has a total of 318 active subscribers, that's 235 new subscribers in under a year. The email has been very popular and a great way to reach out to students, trade unionists and another generation of PSG supporters. We use the Peru News not only as a way of informing people about current events in Peru on a monthly basis, but also to publicise PSG events and initiatives. Since the email first started going out we have only had two requests to cancel the subscription.

Information

We receive a large number of enquiries and requests for information. We regularly receive bulletins from a variety of Peruvian organisations, which provide an invaluable source of up-to-date and reliable information, particularly on the subject of political, social and economic rights.

We are able to use this information in all our activities. We also respond to a high volume of enquires from various sectors of society, either by providing information or building links between individuals and groups in Peru and the UK.

We have provided briefing packs to MPs, Members of the House of Lords and MEPs in advance of Parliamentary delegations to Peru.

Library and resources

We continue to subscribe to several key Peruvian magazines/journals (*Ideele*, *Que Hacer*) and have aided many people in their research and provided an effective resource library on contemporary Peru. We also receive publications and books from a wide range of Peruvian NGOs and other institutions. Human rights organisations, development organisations, the media, along with students - mainly from the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) and Goldsmiths College - use the PSG resources.

Work with schools

We have lent out resources such as teaching packs, photographic exhibitions, and videos to primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of Peru in the UK. We also took part in a Human Rights Day at The Weald school where we gave workshops to young people to inform them of key issues affecting Peru.

Website www.perusupportgroup.org.uk

We have continued to work on the website throughout the year, updating the key issues section of the site as well as the links page. The website has helped us to increase our membership base and we hope to continue to develop the website so that more people will visit it regularly, and use it as a first point of contact for information about Peru.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Peru Support Group website. At the top left is the group's logo. The main heading is "The Peru Support Group". A navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT, GET INVOLVED, KEY ISSUES, NEWS, RESOURCES, LINKS, and CONTACT. The "LATEST NEWS" section features two articles: "Camisea disaster" and "MRTA Rebel leader convicted". The "ARTICLE" section highlights "PSG Public Meeting: Big Challenges ahead for UK mining in Peru" and "The Company Law Reform Bill: Bring UK companies into the 21st Century". A sign-up box for the monthly news email bulletin is on the left, and a section for "Truth and Reconciliation" is on the right. The footer contains copyright information and design credits.

The Peru Support Group

HOME ABOUT GET INVOLVED KEY ISSUES NEWS RESOURCES LINKS CONTACT

LATEST NEWS

Camisea disaster On the first Saturday of March, a liquid gas pipeline ruptured into the jungle town of Echarati, a lush corner of the Cusco region and home to one of the world's most bio diverse rain forests.

MRTA Rebel leader convicted A Peruvian court has sentenced the leader of a Marxist insurgent group to 32 years in prison, after finding him guilty of nearly 30 crimes committed in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

ARTICLE

PSG Public Meeting: Big Challenges ahead for UK mining in Peru Increasingly, UK mining companies are under scrutiny for their activities in Peru.

The Company Law Reform Bill: Bring UK companies into the 21st Century New laws to help UK companies act as a positive force and to ensure they are held accountable for their impact not only in the UK, but also overseas will be debated by MPs this spring as the Company Law Reform Bill goes to Parliament. For more on the campaign [download CORE's newsletter](#) (Word doc, 68kb)

SIGN UP FOR THE PSG MONTHLY PERU NEWS EMAIL BULLETIN
KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST NEWS FROM PERU

Truth and Reconciliation
Links and resources on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Peru

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Other activities

Peru trip, 29 September – 13 October 2005

PSG coordinator attended meetings in Lima and Ayacucho in order to gain input into the work of the PSG and cement links and contacts with Peruvian human rights organisations and groups. The coordinator met with:

Lima

Oxfam GB – Fernando Romero
Oxfam America – Martin Scurrah
CONACAMI
British Ambassador to Peru – Richard Ralph
CiiR – Dina Guerra
Peru Solidarity Forum
Aprodeh – Gloria Cano
CNDDHH – Francisco Soberon, Erika Bocanegra and Alejandro Silvas
CEAS – Laura Vargas
Stephanie Boyd
Barbara Fraser

Ayacucho

District Attorney of Ayacucho – Christina Olazabal
Ponciano Del Pino
Miguel Figueroa
SER
Artemio Sanchez – Councillor for Huanta local authority
ANFASEP
AJOHVISOP
CEDAP
COMISEDH
CEPRODEP
SNV
APRODEH
IDS

Membership

The PSG has a committed and enthusiastic membership of 500 who attend PSG events and campaign on PSG initiatives. A number of members help out with events, attend public meetings, and volunteer with translation and interpreting work. Members and contacts have been able to use our resources to organise their own events.

We also carry out an AGM every year at which members can have an input into the proposed work of the PSG. In this way we are answerable to and supported by a wide constituency in the UK, ensuring our mandate and maintaining our credibility.

We continue to receive a number of substantial donations from members.



Relationship with other UK NGOs

The PSG has continued to maintain and build on relationships with other UK NGOs working in or on Peru, as well as those working on issues linked to our work. This includes our core funders, and many other large and small organisations within the UK. We have encouraged groups to work together and have been able to put groups working on similar issues in contact with each other. We have continued to work with Christian Aid, Oxfam, CAFOD, Tearfund, Progressio, Save the Children UK, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Amnesty International and others. Many of the small organisations in the UK who work on Peru use information from the Peru Update to create their own newsletters, thus multiplying the impact of our publication.

The Executive Committee

A crucial element to the work of the PSG, the committee members have continued to contribute their time, advice and expertise generously. Committee meetings take place once a month, with additional strategy meetings taking place every six months. Many members of the committee travel to Peru on a regular basis, facilitating communication with the various organisations with which we work. The committee has recently diversified with new members coming from a broad range of backgrounds and interests.

Volunteers

Volunteers have continued to donate invaluable time and effort. Mostly involved in desktop publishing, research activities, office administration, editing, mailings, and helping on stalls at events.



PSG End of Year Figures 2005/2006

The PSG is funded by Grants from donor NGOs and from subscriptions and gifts. The major donors are CAFOD, Oxfam and Christian Aid. These donors support us through a core programme agreed on a 3-yearly strategy with yearly detailed definitions of activities. This programme covers ongoing activities such as advocacy, publication of Peru update bulletin etc. In addition, special grants have been made for additional specific projects.

Subscriptions and gifts make a contribution to the core programme and to projects that are part funded by donors.

The accounts for 2005/06 are given below. The accounts are prepared on a cash basis, that is receipts and expenditure are recognised when they occur. Note that monies that we owe or are owed would not appear in the Payments/Receipts accounts or on the Balance Sheet. In fact we owe nothing and where we are owed money it is mentioned in the notes to the accounts.

This year we decided to move our accounting year from 6 April – 5 April to 1 April – 31 March; this year's accounts are from 6 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

The accounts which follow show the budget agreed at the beginning of the year and the actual outcome at the end of the year. Notes are given explaining relevant issues.

* Thus for example a cheque from a donor might be received in January for work to be done January to July; this receipt would be recognised in January. Expenses would each be recognised as they occur between January and July

Payments	Budget	Actual
Rent & Insurance	4,275.00	5,249.94 ¹
Salary & National Insurance	21,424.00	21,770.71
Volunteers	200.00	91.41
Equipment & Stationary	500.00	398.53
Travel	400.00	2,091.93 ²
Phone & Fax, Email & Website	1,150.00	974.39 ³
Postage	730.00	955.56
Printing & Copying	250.00	1,000.16 ⁴
Resources	800.00	101.98
Update	1,200.00	916.15
Events	515.00	848.76
Production of Materials	515.00	2,350.00 ⁵
Visitor expenses	200.00	10.00
Other	200.00	500.52
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>32,361.00</u>	<u>37,260.04</u>
Receipts		
Grants	26,500.00	27,787.00
Special Grants	1,500	5,500 ⁶
Subscriptions	2,950.00	2,517.00
Donations	650.00	360.50
Events	100.00	145.00
Publication sales	20.00	1.50
Crafts	100.00	172.00
Other	150.00	5.00
Interest	250.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>32,220.00</u>	<u>36,488.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>-139.00</u>	<u>-772.04</u>

Balance Sheet

	Petty Cash	Current account	Deposit account	Assets⁷	Liabilities⁸	Total
06-Apr-04	24.55	3,161.74	21,533.31	1,091.05	-829.90	24,980.75
05-Apr-05	38.76	6,392.28	23,421.86	0.00	-5,644.19	24,208.71
Difference	14.21	3,230.54	1,888.55	-1,091.05	-4,659.34	-772.04

¹ The actual amount paid this year includes some rent due in 04-05 but which had not then been invoiced (see notes in last year's accounts). Further, the budget for rent was set too high since it appeared likely that we might have had to move office

² This is high because it includes expenses for travel and costs to Peru and to Europe as well as travel for AGM 2005

³ We changed to a cheaper Internet package.

⁴ This includes £765 on a special report from one of the unbudgeted additional special projects for which we received special grant funding. Also our tenant owes us £151.61

⁵ This includes £2,350 on special report (writing and translating) from one of the unbudgeted additional special projects for which we received special grant funding as above

⁶ We received £4,000 more special projects than was budgeted

⁷ Cheques received but not yet cashed by PSG.

⁸ Cheques issued by PSG but not cashed by recipient.