

AUGUST 2011

Area Rep: Julieanne Porter

50 Cornwallis Road, Oxford OX4 3NW

Tel: 01865 236 088 (*before 9pm*), Email: jgp@cooptel.net

Hello all,

Welcome to the latest EA&C regional newsletter. It's a little shorter than usual, as quite a few groups are away. Note to self - try to avoid August for trying to compile newsletters in future..!

I am pleased to say that we have two newcomers to the region: Milton Keynes WDM Group are just starting up, and another group is trying to get started in Basingstoke and hope to start meeting regularly soon. Welcome to both, we look forward to hearing of your activities in the future.

I've now been the Area Rep for the region for nearly 4 years. I am also currently job-sharing as a national WDM Council member and at the next AGM will stand to become a full council member. I've therefore decided to step down as the EA&C Rep at next year's AGM, as I think it is time to hand the role over to a new person. Therefore, we will be looking for a new Area Rep...! Do think about taking on the role. It really isn't a lot of work, but it is really interesting and engaging. It is a great way to get to know more about what WDM groups get up to and to be inspired! If you would like to know more about the role, do contact me, and if you are interested in becoming the next EA&C Area Rep, do let Katharine Katharine@wdm.org.uk or myself know.

Don't forget that there is the Skillshare taking place in Nottingham on 17th September – it would be great if every group could send a member to take part, and then report back to their groups to share the knowledge.

Julieanne

RECENT GROUP ACTIVITIES - Information sharing

Cambridge: Cambridge WDM has had two outings since last issue. On 28 April we gathered outside Barclays' branch in Cambridge Market Square, to highlight the role of the bank's speculation on the global food markets in pushing up the price of key staple foods. The picture by Sue Woodsford (below) shows that event.



On Sunday 10 July, members fielded a stall on Parker's Piece as part of the city's Big Weekend,

and the food campaign featured there also. Members were amazed at how quickly they could pump out leaflets to passers-by if they used the words "Here's something you can do about the price of food."

Plans for the autumn include a costume stunt in the run-up to the Durban climate talks, and a presentation by WDM's Kirsty Wright in the run-up to the costume stunt. And plans for the new year include a workshop led by climate activist Danny Chivers.

Oxford: In April we held a Barclays stunt in the centre of Oxford. There is a short video on our website of us acting out the stunt with the help of a passer-by (who was also a friend, so made it easy!). Take a look at:

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/oxford/2011/04/16/oxford-campaigners-hold-food-protest-at-barclays-branch/>.

We were of course proud that the AGM was held in Oxford in June! And we got to do the Barclays stunt again, this time with WDMers from around the country.



Barclays stunt at AGM, Oxford

We held a stall at the [Just Do It](#) screening on 4th August, and on Sat 20th August we held a stall at the annual Elder Stubbs Festival. This is on an allotment site so focussing on the food campaign made sense, and we did get quite a bit of interest with nearly 50 'This is how the banks see our food' cards signed.



Stall at Elder Stubbs Festival

Upcoming plans include hopefully having a stall in Abingdon, south Oxfordshire, on 15th October - this is an 'Apple Day' and a new venture by a low-carbon group there.

We are also gearing up for our pub quiz and fundraiser on 21st October. The room is booked, the questions are being planned, and high quality publicity material is out. We will also be holding a stall at the annual One World Fair, organised by the Oxford Oxfam Group, on 19th November.

St Albans: In April we held a stunt and handed out leaflets outside our local Barclays as part of the Food Speculation campaign. We were well received by the public who were still very angry at the banks. In May we gave a talk on WDM to a local A level citizens group at Oaklands

College. We hope to be invited back in the Autumn to speak to another group. In June group members attended the AGM in Oxford and came back with glowing reports.

In July, we held a stall at a local Festival of Life, celebrating community groups. This bi-annual event is turning out to be our best outreach event, and this year we made good contacts and new supporters.

We also continued sending letters to our MP and general campaigning, and enjoyed supporting and attending events organised by our friends in other local groups.



Food quiz for July stall

We are manning a check point at this year's Oxfam Herts Hike on 24th Sept. (see http://www.oxfamstalbans.org/Herts_Hike.html) As well as helping with the event we hope to have a stall at the check point and get a lot of links for the new Climate paper chain of debt from the walkers.

We are giving a talk to our local Soroptomist group in 24th Oct and hope to get them involved in some of our campaigns.

We are gearing up to tackle our MEPs this autumn when the Food Speculation campaign hits the European Parliament, and hope to coordinate our activities with you in other groups in the region.

Welwyn-Hatfield: We have been in abeyance this summer, apart from taking individual actions. We usually run a stall at Welwyn Garden's big multi-ethnic festival which attracts a huge crowd every summer but the festival was not run this year as a result of a Big Society withdrawal of grant from the District Council to the local Ethnic Minority Group. We'll be meeting again at the end of August.

TIPS!

The top tip has to be from Cambridge WDM, on how to get people interested in the food campaign...

“Here's something you can do about the price of food.”

Definitely worth trying on your next stall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would like further details about any of these events, contact the group organising it for further information.

- 31Aug Talk: Economic Crisis in the Era of Peak Oil, Reading
- 6Sep Meeting: Milton Keynes group
- 17Sep WDM Skill share event, Nottingham, <http://www.wdm.org.uk/events/wdm-groups-gathering>
- 20Sep Reclaiming our food system, London
- 24Sep Herts Hike, St Albans
- 21Oct Pub quiz and fundraiser, Oxford
- 19Nov One World Fair, Oxford

And for your diaries... WDM 2012 AGM will be on 23rd June 2012.

EA&C GROUPS

Basingstoke:

katharine@wdm.org.uk

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/basingstoke/>

Chiltern: Ann Cloke

36 Quarrendon Road, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9EF

01494 725743. ann@quar36.fslife.co.uk

Oxford: Chris Manley

01295 259 377, christopherjmanley@yahoo.co.uk

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/oxford/>

Slough: Cilla Taylor

92 Bowyer Drive, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5EQ

01628 662 808, cilla@maison-taylor.freeserve.co.uk

Watford: Roger Stuart

8 Walverns Close, Watford WD19 4QD0

01923 224 176, rogerstuart_watford@yahoo.co.uk

Cambridge: Aidan Baker

01223 510392, asb12@cam.ac.uk

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/cambridge/>

Milton Keynes: Pauline and Tim Welch

86 Whaddon Road, Milton Keynes, MK17 0AT

01908 642702, wdmkgrp@gmail.com

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/miltonkeynes/>

Reading:

Contact groups@wdm.org.uk

St Albans & District: Hilary & Jeff Heine

01727 838 658, stalbanswdm@hotmail.co.uk

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/stalbans/>

Welwyn & Hatfield: Robert Harvey

20 The Old Drive, Welwyn Garden City AL8

6TB, 01707 322 339, robert@harveywgc.co.uk