

Fairtrade talk

We have updated the food speculation standard talk (power point presentation and word document with talk transcript) for Fairtrade Fortnight. Please feel free to use this as an outreach tool during Fairtrade Fortnight as a way to link our food speculation campaign to Fairtrade issues. If you would like a copy please contact Sarah: sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk



Events

Activists' forum, Glasgow

The activists' forum is open to any WDM members living in Scotland and is an opportunity to hear about our campaign and fundraising plans for 2012 as well as to meet up with other WDM members, in an informal setting.

When: Wednesday 22 February. 6.30pm - 8pm

Where: Glasgow, (location tbc)

At this forum we will be planning for the campaigner conference in May and training needs for groups in Scotland for the coming year. If you are planning to attend, please email Liz in the Scottish office: liz@wdmscotland.org.uk

An economy for the 99%

Ideas, stories and tactics from around the world

What would an economy that really worked in the interests of people look like? This day of debates, workshops and skill sharing will bring together activists from Manchester, Europe and beyond to share ideas for building economic justice movements across the world.

When: Saturday 17 March, 10am-6pm

Where: Manchester Metropolitan University

Speakers include: Dina Makram Ebeid - Popular Campaign to Drop Egypt's Debt, Sargon Nissan - former city trader turned activist, Nessa Ní Chasaide - Debt Justice Action (Ireland), John Christensen - Tax Justice Network

We are co-organising this event with Jubilee Debt Campaign. Book your free place online at: www.wdm.org.uk/99percent or call Katharine on 020 7820 4900.

Sponsored events in 2012

Now is the time to start thinking about a physical challenge for 2012; why not take part in an adventure and raise money for WDM at the same time? We have a range of events planned for next year, from walking to cycling, or design your own! Here's a recommendation from one of our 2011 cyclists:

"Taking part in the London to Paris bike ride in September this year was one of the most enjoyable challenges I've entered, though hard work and energy intensive. It was a great way to raise money for charity, WDM in my case, and after 300 miles on the bike to cycle around the Arc de Triomphe to the end (Eiffel Tower) en masse was truly amazing" *Andrea Kaszewski, London to Paris participant 2011*

London to Paris cycle: 6-10 June

Walk the West Highland Way: 2-7 June

Ben Nevis challenge: 7-9 September

If you like the sound of these check out the available events on our website:

www.wdm.org.uk/support-us/sponsored-events

WDM groups' skillshare in Scotland

Following the success of the WDM skillshare day held last year in Nottingham, the Scottish office is planning to organise a skillshare afternoon at the end of March aimed at WDM groups and members in Scotland and the north of England. It is likely to be a joint event with Jubilee Scotland and Friends of the Earth Scotland. There will be more information about this in the next Think Global, or if you want to be kept up to date about this, please contact Jane in the Scotland office: jane@wdmscotland.org.uk

WDM AGM and conference

When: Saturday 23 June

Where: University of London Union

Our AGM will be held on the morning of Saturday 23 June, with a public conference in the afternoon. Please save the date if you can and we will send more information about the conference as plans develop.

Groups

Groups round up

Leicester WDM ran a climate justice workshop at a Nottingham Justice and Peace meeting in November.

Gerry Sutcliffe MP attended **Bradford WDM's** AGM in early January, giving the group the opportunity to raise issues around food speculation and climate debt with him.

St Albans WDM took part in an African Climate Connection event with other local groups, during the climate talks in Durban.

Oxford WDM showed the film 'Debtocracy' at their pre-Christmas social and are discussing showing films more regularly.

Several groups have been working hard to lobby their MEPs about MiFID. **Derby, Leicester** and **Nottingham WDM** groups co-ordinated to lobby Glenis Wilmott MEP; **Sheffield** and **Rotherham WDM** lobbied Linda McAvan MEP together; **Portsmouth WDM** met with Peter Skinner MEP and **East Cleveland WDM** had a very positive meeting with Fiona Hall MEP. Many more meetings are planned over the coming weeks.

Elections

2012 is an election year for WDM; we will be looking for nominees to stand for both council and as area representatives. Full details will be enclosed with the spring issue of Action magazine and it will also be possible to post nominations on our website from 20 February. Being a council member or an area representative is a brilliant way to get involved in WDM's democracy and to play a key role in steering our campaign direction. If you're interested in either role contact Katharine on 020 7820 4900 or katharine@wdm.org.uk.

Annual subscriptions and surveys

A reminder to send us your completed survey and annual group subscriptions by 28 February. We know that filling in the surveys takes up considerable time in your group meetings but it really does help us to provide the best possible



Central Lancashire WDM and their climate 'chain of debt'

support to groups. If you have any queries about your subs please contact Sarah on sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk

New t-shirts for the new year?

Remember that we have more t-shirts available if you would like to buy some for your group. The t-shirts are WDM's house colour (maroon) with the logo in white on front and back. They are available in small, medium, large and extra-large at a cost price of £8 per t-shirt. If you would like to order any please contact sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk

New and revived groups!

We are hoping to set up a new WDM group in the **Bromley** area this year. If you know anyone who lives in the area who might be interested please ask them to contact Katharine on katharine@wdm.org.uk. We will be circulating information about an initial meeting as soon as it is set up.

Reading WDM is also looking like it has a new lease of life which is great. An action planning meeting took place on 24 January – watch this space!



Press coverage of Rotherham WDM's climate debt action



Shrewsbury WDM's collect messages for their climate 'chain of debt'

Top tips

Some groups have included their MP's contact details on their group website. This is a great idea in terms of encouraging members to contact their MPs. It may also be worth adding MEP contact details, especially as we will be lobbying hard on food speculation over the coming months.

Slideshare is a great online tool for sharing powerpoint presentations and films which may be too large to email: www.slideshare.net/ You can sign up for free and easily upload documents, which you can then link to on your group's website or email links to members or other WDM groups.

Recycle old phones and cartridges

Now is the time when many of us will be thinking about having a good spring clean! If you have old mobile phones or printer cartridges lying around, why not recycle them and help WDM's campaigns at the same time?

For each phone sent to our partner Green Source Solutions, we'll receive up to £40 and up to £2.50 for each printer cartridge. Recycling phones and ink cartridges raised just over £800 for WDM in 2011.

This is a great way to be green and help WDM at the same time too. You can use the envelope enclosed with your copy of Think Global to post them. If you would like more envelopes please either call 0800 328 2153 or email supporterservices@wdm.org.uk