

Groups

Support for groups

A reminder about various resources and support we can offer:

Groups project fund: we can offer funding to groups on a matched funding basis (eg if your group requests £100 we would ask that you provide £100 from the group bank account). You might find this particularly useful for large one-off costs such as venue hire, or a large mailing.

Logos for stall: we have produced square waterproof logos for groups to use on stalls to make your presence as bright and visible as possible! Contact Sarah if you would like to order a set of two.

Websites: if you have yet to set up your group website please contact Pontus on pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk for help. We know that websites really do make a difference to the local profile of groups so do take the time to set one up.

Skill-share on website: Please send us tips on successful activities you have organised, so that we can add them to the skill-share section – email Katharine.

Network email list: We have now set up an email list

wdmlocalgroups@list.riseup.net. All group contacts are on this list, plus individuals who asked to be added. This list is designed for group members to ask questions and to share positive experiences – please do make the most of it! If you would like to be removed from the list at any time just let Katharine know.

Talk on food speculation

We are creating a talk on our food campaign which is specifically designed for WDM group members to give to other local groups, such as Fairtrade Town groups or Transition Towns. This talk will include a powerpoint presentation, a script and copies of the press coverage we have received for the campaign. The talk will be ready by mid October. Please let Sarah know if you are planning on giving a talk in your area and would like a pack.

Groups news

Bexhill & Hastings WDM celebrated our 40th anniversary with a garden party and talk from climate campaigner Kirsty, on her experiences in Bolivia. **Oxford WDM** held a stall at the Cowley Road carnival in early July and will be running a fundraising pub quiz at the start of September. **Portsmouth WDM** members were very active in organising Portsmouth Green Week, in addition to running a stall at the Green Fair and taking part in the discussion panel after a screening of the film *Blue Gold: World Water Wars*.

St Albans & District WDM held a stall at the Festival of Life in early July and will be running another at Earthworks in early September. **East Dorset WDM** held a very successful stall at the Tolpuddle festival. **Sheffield WDM** came up with an ingenious plate spinning game to demonstrate the effects of speculators gambling on food prices at their stall in early August.

Manchester & Warrington WDM groups held a joint media stunt outside RBS in central Manchester focussing on tar sand investments; group members represented the UK government (in the guise of George Osborne), the tar sands industry and RBS, spoke to lots of passers-by and handed out leaflets and action cards on cleaning up the banks. The group have written some helpful hints on doing a similar action which are available on our website at <http://www.wdm.org.uk/communitypages/share-skills-effective-campaigning>



Coventry WDM braved torrential rain and wind to hold a stall at the August Green Fayre and succeeded in talking to lots of people about the food campaign. **Bristol WDM** held a stall at the annual Amnesty garden party; always a well attended event.

Local networking

As mentioned above, it may be worth contacting local groups such as Fairtrade Towns or Transition Towns to ask if they would be interested in hearing more about our food campaign. Another idea is to find out if there is a farmers market in your area by visiting the site www.farmersmarkets.net. You may be able to hold a stall at the market or potentially distribute campaign materials via a producer or veg box delivery company. As mentioned in the August email update, Green Drinks is a great way of meeting like-minded people in your community and maybe recruiting some new members for your group! Visit www.greendrinks.org/UK

Writing blogs

Do you have your own blog or would you be willing to write for WDM's blog? If yes please do get in touch with Pontus on pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk. We're really keen to get more group members and activists involved in our website in this way.