

Groups

Groups' roundup

Our newest group, **Milton Keynes WDM**, has got off to a great start with a lead member publishing an article in Peace & Justice News, and in Citizen First, a local paper in Milton Keynes. This article both promoted our food campaign, and raised awareness of the existence of the new WDM group – great stuff! The group have also been making good use of their website to help members campaign, posting short films on food speculation, and template letters for members to send to their MPs. Take a look at

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

St Albans & District WDM held a stall at the Festival of Life in July, celebrating community groups. This bi-annual event is turning out to be the group's best outreach event, and they made lots of good contacts.

Bexhill & Hastings WDM held a well attended stall at an interfaith event 'A garden full of family delights' in St Leonards on Sea, which was a great opportunity to promote the food campaign to a new audience.

Oxford WDM organised a stall at the annual Elder Stubbs festival, this is held on an allotment so the perfect audience for the food campaign and the group succeeded in getting 50 action cards signed.

North Kent WDM held a successful stall at the Big Day Out in Gravesend on 23 July.

The following WDM groups have organised enjoyable and thought-provoking evenings with performance poet/activist/author Danny Chivers; **Manchester, London, Macclesfield, East Cleveland, Leeds, Bradford, South Lakes and Derby.**

We are hoping to set up a new group in the **Sevenoaks/Bromley** area, so if you know of anyone who lives in that area and would be interested in getting involved, please let Katharine know.

Growing the movement

In the last year, WDM has signed up 133 new supporters thanks to Ethicall, a telephone fundraising agency based in Bristol. Healthy numbers of financial supporters are essential for the success of WDM's campaigns. It means we have enough money to produce unique research and successful campaigns, and also that we have more clout when talking to decision makers. And of course, more people to take action and help us win our campaigns.

We know this kind of fundraising isn't popular with everyone, so we make it easy for people to opt out of telephone calls if they do not wish to receive them. Telephone fundraising is proving to be a successful way of growing the movement. Nearly 10 percent of people contacted agreed to support us with a regular gift. This great result shows how much people value and respect WDM's work and also how effective the telephone is at getting the message across.

The number of WDM's financial supporters has been dropping over the past few years so finding successful ways of recruiting new supporters is an ongoing priority for us. One way WDM groups can help is to collect people's name, address, email address and phone number when you're running an event or a stall. People only sign our contact forms because they would like to get more involved in WDM so you don't have to worry about asking for people's details. If people have given us permission to contact them, we may follow them up with a phone call to ask them if they would like to support WDM with a regular gift.

We will soon have new collection sheets available, which clearly state how people's information will be used, so contact Katharine if you would like to help.

Making your stall stand out

New materials

We are ordering some new materials for groups to help make your stalls as eye-catching as possible. We have black tablecloths with the WDM logo printed in white, and plastic stands to hold materials (A4 and DL size; the latter being the size of the 'Impatient for Change' recruitment leaflet). If you would like to order any of these materials (1 tablecloth, and a set of one stand of each size per group) please email groups@wdm.org.uk or call 020 7820 4900.

Groups project fund

Remember we have funds available specifically to support local group activities. So if you would like to put on an event but don't have the funds in your coffers, don't worry! Contact Katharine for information about how to apply for money from the groups project fund – Katharine@wdm.org.uk

Case study materials

Our September climate justice appeal mailing will include postcards focussing on a World Bank funded wind farm in Mexico, and the associated problems for the local community. We will have extra copies of this postcard available, so if you would like to order some to use on stalls please email groups@wdm.org.uk

Diary dates

13 September: Stop the Arms Fair day of action, London

16 September: Regulation, speculation and world food prices, Edinburgh

17 September: WDM groups gathering, Nottingham

19 Sept – 2 October: Take One Action film festival, Edinburgh & Glasgow

3 – 13 October: "Africa demands climate justice"- climate justice speaker tour, eight events across the country (see page 9 for more info)

16 October: World Food Day event, Edinburgh

19 October: Hunger for justice: From food crisis to food sovereignty, Manchester

20 October: Joking for justice, Leicester Square Theatre, London

23-30 October: One World Week: Living for one world, all over the country

1-4 November: G20 meeting in Cannes and alter-forum in Nice, France.

23 June 2012: WDM annual general meeting, London

G20: France, 3-4 November

The G20 is taking place on 3 and 4 November in Cannes, France. French global justice and environmental organisations and trade unions are organising a counter conference from 1 to 4 November, in Nice. There will also be an international demonstration. With anti-austerity protest sweeping southern Europe and another financial crisis looming, these events could be big and important steps towards building people-centred alternatives. For more information about the mobilisations being planned see www.altermob.org (in French but English translation available).

As part of the 6 Billion Ways collective, WDM is hoping to organise travel to France and workshops as part of the forum. If you are interested in taking the 6 Billion Ways transport please let Katharine know so we can gauge interest – katharine@wdm.org.uk