

Groups

Groups' roundup

Welwyn & Hatfield WDM, along with Friends of the Earth, CAFOD and Oxfam, questioned the government's green credentials at a meeting with their MP Grant Shapps during Climate Week. The meeting was covered in local media, including a quote from Welwyn & Hatfield WDM member Robert Harvey.

North Kent WDM is running a stall at the annual Sweeps festival in Rochester on 30 April.

South-East London WDM will be running a stall at the annual Nunhead Cemetery Open Day on 21 May. Alongside campaigning activities, the group will be selling copies of the film 'The End of Poverty?'

An impressive number of groups have organised Barclays stunts and stalls during our month of action. To take a look at some excellent photos from the numerous stunts have a look at our flickr page: www.flickr.com/photos/wdm/ If you haven't yet sent us your photos please email them to Katharine.

Oxford WDM is inviting a speaker from the Equity Trust to attend their AGM in May.

Ordering WDM materials

If you are ordering campaign materials by email please use the groups@wdm.org.uk email address from now on, rather than emailing Katharine or Sarah directly. It would also be very helpful if you could put 'Materials order' in the subject line.

Staff update

We are pleased to welcome Beth Smith into the network team, as events & activism intern. Beth will be present at our national conference in Oxford so I'm sure many of you will meet her there. In addition to working part-time in the network team, Sarah will also be working part-time in the climate justice campaign team from 9 May; we are delighted that she will be in the office full-time!

We are also welcoming Amy Horton back to WDM; Amy previously worked as an intern and she will be joining the food campaign team from 3 May. Sadly these changes mean we will be saying goodbye to Rosie and Catherine, both of whom have put huge amounts of energy into their work at WDM and whom I'm sure many of you will have met. We will hope they will stay involved through local group campaigning.

The network team is on Twitter!

Twitter is a social networking website which allows people to communicate short messages (of up to 140 characters) to each other. It's a great way of sharing information about things that are currently happening such as news stories, actions, events and new resources for campaigners.

WDM has its own Twitter account (@wdmuk) which we use to update people on news relating to our campaigns and relevant events. The network team has started using Twitter to report on local group actions and events. If your group is helping to organise an event, or features in your local paper, Twitter can be a great way of spreading the word about it and reaching lots of new people.

Are you on Twitter? Then follow WDM and let us know so we can follow you! Email groups@wdm.org.uk with your Twitter username.

Not on Twitter? If you're not on Twitter but would like to learn about how to use it and other websites such as Facebook, WDM's web officer Pontus would be happy to visit your group and do a short session on using the web for campaigning. Get in touch with Sarah on sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk to organise a social networking workshop.

Top tips

Top tips for May from Brighton, Manchester and Nottingham...

Brighton & Hove WDM have printed up some 'business cards' for their group, detailing their group website, email address and facebook group; group members give these out to interested individuals on stalls and whenever they meet anyone keen to be involved, usually adding a personal mobile number too. On a different note, the group feels that networking with other local groups is one of their biggest strengths, as the WDM group is fairly small but when doing joint activities they can have a big impact, and a wider range of skills is brought to bear on actions.

Manchester WDM succeeded in getting lots of action cards signed on the train to the March for the Alternative. This scenario is ideal for action card campaigning because people are likely to be sympathetic, they have the time and it's warm and dry!

Nottingham WDM have recently started alternating their monthly meeting venue between a pub and a more formal meeting space. This saves the group money as the hire cost of the formal meeting room has recently gone up, and means that group members who have different preferences on where to meet are all catered for.

Publicising local events

We have included a sample promotional plan which we hope will be useful to you when planning local events. This is really a checklist detailing who to contact and how, with an example e-flyer too. If you already use a similar event planning checklist which you would be willing to share with other groups please do send it to Katharine.



Bexhill & Hastings WDM with their overpriced food stall and Barclays eagle