



# TIDAL *news*

Trade Injustice and Debt Action Leeds

AUTUMN 2003

## Imagine...

**Two hundred thousand billion pounds** – that's what the money trade is worth each year.

The Tobin tax is a proposal to stabilise this volatile market, while raising vast amounts of money for poverty relief.

As part of One World Week, TIDAL and Leeds Labour Party present 'The TobinTax.' A short film will be followed by a speaker (probably peacemaker and Nobel Prize winner John Hume) and discussion.

Channel Four journalist and newsreader, Jon Snow, teams up with campaigning organisation, War on Want, in this new film on the tax that would raise enormous sums to fight poverty and stop the worst kind of foreign exchange trading that causes economic disaster in the poorest countries.

First proposed by Nobel prize-winning economist James Tobin in the 1970s, the idea of a currency transactions tax (CTT), or Tobin tax, has steadily gained support ever since. Currency speculation has played a decisive role in recent financial crises, causing widespread chaos and poverty. A

## a stack of £50 notes reaching from the Earth to the Moon...

small charge on currency transfers would calm damaging speculation, while simultaneously raising huge sums for development.

### How the Tobin tax works

A minimal tax, say 0.1%, on currency transactions would not hold back productive business transactions for trade and investment. But speculative transactions would be hit harder because speculation relies on very small margins of difference between currencies.

### International support

In recent years, there has been increasing support for Tobin-type taxes. The idea is being seriously considered by the UN and the European Union and several national governments have called for its introduction. It also has the support of over 350 economists and nearly 900 parliamentarians across the globe.

The staggering damage caused by currency speculation is an issue of international trade justice.

Here at TIDAL, we imagine that the Tobin tax will be of great interest to our supporters.

Find out more at [www.tobintax.org.uk](http://www.tobintax.org.uk) and come to the event on 15 October.



7pm Wednesday 15 October  
Council Chambers, Leeds Civic Hall  
**The Tobin Tax**



# MPs weigh in for trade justice

## A word from our Annieministrator...

*Welcome to the autumn edition of TIDAL News. Firstly, a big goodbye and thanks to Jane, who has been doing a fantastic job for the last seven months. We wish her all the best in her new job.*

*We've had a really busy summer: as well as the fifth anniversary of Birmingham and the Scale up for Trade Justice events, we managed to cover most of the local festivals and fairs, and even some national ones!*

*The outcome, or lack of one, of the WTO meeting in Cancun was disappointing, but we are moving on and continuing to fight the fight! Read all about the events that TIDAL is taking part in this autumn in these pages, and then come and show your support!*

**Annie Connolly**



*Despite heavy financial inducements and an ominous creaking from the global economy, MPs Colin Challen, John Battle, Paul Truswell and Fabian Hamilton tilt the scales of justice against fat-cat corporates, Joan Machin and Mary Keynes.*

ON A FINE DAY back in June, numerous supporters joined us in Millennium Square to Scale Up For Trade Justice, as part of a 24-hour mass lobby organised by the Trade Justice Movement. Four Leeds MPs tilted the scales of justice against fat-cat corporates and their money bags.

MPs Colin Challen, John Battle, Paul Truswell, Fabian Hamilton and Hilary Benn all took part. MEPs Richard Corbett and David Bowe were also present, and MPs Harold Best and Colin Burgon sent messages of support.

A meeting in the Civic Hall was chaired by Hilary Benn MP, Commons Spokesperson for DFID, with speakers from CAFOD, TIDAL and Colombia. Out in the square, the Foxwood Steel Bandits were playing, and we all gathered there at noon for a minute's silence followed by a balloon release.

## Donations

A big and ongoing thank you to those of you who have set up standing orders and are donating on a monthly basis to TIDAL. Our average outgoings over the last year have been around £1,000 per month. We are receiving around £550 a month in regular donations and we cover the shortfall with one-off donations. If you would like to set-up a regular donation to TIDAL, please contact Annie in the office.

## Glastonbury debt heroics

Five superheros from Leeds (Anna, Emma, Jo, Jon and Mark) joined a group from JDC London with the 'Drop The Debt Bus' to campaign at Glastonbury this summer. It was a scorching weekend – especially in the superhero costumes!

The superheros managed to get the Glastonbury crowds to sign around 4,000 action cards to MPs. An additional 1,500 people asked to be kept updated on the campaign by email. Funds were raised for the trip by raffling a hot bath on board the bus (a unique experience at Glastonbury)! The winner, Victoria Moore, said it was 'the best bath of her life'. In terms of public awareness, the campaign had a lot of coverage on radio Avalon, independent radio and in 'Q', the festival magazine.



Check out the TIDAL website [www.leadstidal.org](http://www.leadstidal.org)

# CANCUN

## ...looking back and looking forward

We've probably all heard about the collapse of the WTO negotiations at Cancun. But what does it mean? Was it a triumph or a tragedy? And what will be the outcome? **Mary Keynes** explains...

There were certainly elements of triumph. The group of 23 developing nations, headed up by China, India and Brazil, led the stand against the traditional bullying of the western powers. At last the voice of the majority world was heard, with a flat refusal to allow WTO trade rules to penetrate ever deeper into the economies of the developing nations whilst the rich countries continue to break promises, bend rules, and protect their farmers and industries.

The group of 23 represented 60% of the world's farmers, and it was the issue of food and agriculture that most moved the protesters outside the conference, popular protest across the world, and lobbyists and campaigners like ourselves. This was what Lee Kyung-hae died for at the security fence: the destruction of lives, cultures and communities by the flood of subsidised food exports from the developed world.

So what next? There are two possibilities. One is the breakdown of any sort of negotiated global trading system and a return to brutal bilateralism and the power politics of a divided world of restrictive trading blocs like NAFTA. This is a real and fearful possibility.

Alternatively, this could be the beginning of a reformed WTO, whose aims would include reducing poverty and protecting the environment, as well as establishing a fairer system of trade.

We've come to the end of one stage of campaigning and must now turn to a period of tough thinking, negotiating, and campaigning to ensure that good comes out of the collapse of Cancun.

**Come to the speaker  
event on 29 October at**

**Leeds Civic Hall to hear what really went  
on from a Central American attendee.**

**ACTION**

## Colludo Whodunnit to the world's poor?

The inside story and a Central  
American perspective from a  
Nicaraguan who attended the  
WTO meeting in Cancun

**PLUS!!** The WDM game *Colludo*

**7.30pm 29 Oct Leeds Civic Hall**

## What's on October–December 2003

### October

- Sat 5 **Two films on conflict and peace**  
Together for Peace event  
3.15pm: Leeds Art Gallery
- Thurs 9 **Faith, Money and Poverty**  
7pm: Word of Life building, Cardigan Rd
- Wed 15 **The Tobin Tax**  
7.30pm: Council Chamber, Leeds Civic Hall
- Fri 24 **VIDEO A Day to Remember**  
7pm: St Paul's URC, Harrogate  
Harrogate JDC event and AGM
- Wed 29 **Colludo:  
Whodunnit to the world's poor?**  
7.30pm: Leeds Civic Hall

### November

- Fri 7 **Mock UN General Assembly**  
Together for Peace event  
9.30am–4pm: Council Chamber, Civic Hall
- Fri 14 **The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace**  
Together for Peace event  
Leeds Town Hall

### December

- Thurs 18 **Christian Aid Carol Concert**  
7.30pm: Lidgett Park Methodist

Please contact Annie in the TIDAL office for further info about any of these events.

## Together for Peace

With the news still dominated by Iraq and the political aftermath of the decision to go to war, the first 'Together for Peace' festival, centred around 4–16 November, will give the people of Leeds the opportunity to engage with issues of conflict and peace.

Drawing on their wide range of experiences and viewpoints, it will be expressed through the media of theatre productions, music, lecture, film, debate, sport, creative writing and even pub quizzes.

Key events include the premiere of the Classical Artists' chart's number one album *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* on Friday 14 November at Leeds Town Hall.

Also, as part of the festival, Leeds City Council is privileged to host the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since the early 1980s, the Mayors of these two Japanese cities have been working to promote peace

around the world across national and cultural boundaries.

TIDAL has put together a 'Pub Quiz for Peace'! We are still looking for more pubs to take the quiz. If you think your local might be interested or you fancy organising one yourself, ring the office on 391 7917, and we will send a copy out to you.

**For information on the many events  
that are taking place, please contact  
Together for Peace on (0113) 2751047,  
email [stew@togetherforpeace.co.uk](mailto:stew@togetherforpeace.co.uk),  
or see [www.togetherforpeace.co.uk](http://www.togetherforpeace.co.uk).**

## Harrogate JDC Event

7.30pm, Friday 24 October, St Paul's  
URC, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate

There will be a showing of parts of the JDC video *A Day to Remember*, with a short discussion. This will be followed by a short AGM.

## Fairtrade City

An update from **Joan Machin**

Thanks to everyone who sent the cut-out from the last newsletter to their councillors. Just about every councillor received at least one and some had several. Feedback has been that this was really successful in getting them talking about it. So far, **everyone** on the council has been in favour – we've not had one dissenting voice, which is really good news. We are hoping that a cross party resolution will be passed in the not too distant future – **watch this space!!** We would still like news of any business or organisation which either already uses fairly traded goods or could maybe be persuaded! One of our tasks in the future is to compile a directory of Leeds organisations, shops and cafes that sell goods with the Fairtrade Mark, and we don't want to leave any out.

Enclosed with your newsletter is a

questionnaire taken from the Council's Leeds newsletter. The Leeds Initiative – the city's public-private sector partnership – is wanting to know how you would like to see the city develop. We want our stalwart supporters to fill in the questionnaire, and answer Question 5 by saying they'd like Leeds to be a Fairtrade City!

Leeds Initiative  
NEA 3368  
Leeds  
LS1 1YY



**ACTION**



Annie spotted this bit of graffiti in Regent Street recently. Is this the work of a closet TIDAL supporter, we wonder?

## Summer stalls

Summer fairs are a great opportunity to meet the public, gain new supporters and get signatures on postcards and petitions. This summer there was a TIDAL presence on stalls run by member organisations North Leeds Oxfam, Leeds Central World Development Movement, and Friends of the Earth. We were at the Asian Mela in Roundhay Park, at the Caribbean Carnival in Potternewton Park on August Bank Holiday, at the Arts Festival in Chapel Allerton and at the Leeds Exchange Network in St Aidan's Church on Saturday 6 September.

If your community, church or organisation holds a fair where we would be welcome, please make sure we know about it!

## Faith, Money and Poverty

7–9pm, Thursday 9 October, Word of  
Life Building, 223 Cardigan Road

Lilian Waithe is Kenyan and has worked for Christian Aid in Nairobi for the last four years. She will be talking about how life is for rural Kenyan women and also the relationship between her work and her Christian faith.

This will also be a chance to say goodbye to **Michael Fairclough**, who is leaving Christian Aid and moving to Manchester. He is a valued member of the TIDAL Steering Group and will be sorely missed. We would like to thank him for all his contributions, and wish him all the best in his new role.

## Christian Aid carols

7.30pm, Thurs 18 December, Lidgett  
Park Methodist Church. Please ring the  
CA office for tickets on 0113 244 4764.

## Found in the office...

- A blue umbrella
- A rectangular plastic backed mirror
- A black furry hat
- A blue/green ethnic table covering

Please claim by the end of October, or else...

## Some useful contacts...

In the UK the Jubilee torch is carried on by the **Jubilee Debt Campaign**. TIDAL is a member, along with most of the same national and regional groups who were part of Jubilee 2000. PO Box 36620, London, SE1 0WJ

Tel: 020 7922 1111 Fax: 020 7922 1122  
assistant@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk  
www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

### Trade Justice Movement

... calling for fundamental change to the unjust rules and institutions governing international trade, so that trade is made to work for all.

c/o The Fairtrade Foundation, Suite 204,  
16 Baldwin's Gardens, London, EC1N 7RJ

Tel: 020 7404 0530

Email: mail@tjm.org.uk

www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk

### TIDAL

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Leeds, LS1 6DG

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tidal@leedschurchinstitute.org

**www.leadstidal.org**