



TIDAL *news*

Trade Injustice and Debt Action Leeds

SUMMER 2002

Making waves in Leeds



MARY KEYNES REPORTS...

We danced at the Ceilidh – and appeared on BBC2. We lobbied our MPs at Westminster – and plan to go right on lobbying until we see real change and reform to the unfair trade system. So what's next?

Leeds Mela

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 August in Roundhay Park

TIDAL needs to reach out to the wider Leeds community, to get in touch with Leeds residents whose origins lie in the very countries that suffer from the ravages of debt and unfair trade rules.

How often have we said that? Now's the chance to act on it!

The Mela is the major festival for the Asian community in Leeds. There's music, dance, entertainment and cultural activities, and for those of you who can't bear to miss it, Channel 4 will be screening the 2nd Test Match live from the Festival Stage.

TIDAL will be there, with a stall run by Leeds Friends of the Earth, North Leeds Oxfam, Trade Justice Movement, and

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of TIDAL, the group which has taken over debt campaigning from Leeds Jubilee 2000 Network and incorporates Leeds Trade Justice Movement. A lot of familiar faces here – but some new ones too, as we find individuals and groups who share our vision of a better deal for the world's poorest people.

World Development Movement. We'll need lots of volunteers to hand out leaflets and postcards, recruit supporters, and take part in the TJM Loaded Dice trade game. Also some rickshaw riders. Contact Tim on 0113 2454700 or one of the four organisations above.

WANTED: Administrator Trade Injustice and Debt Action Leeds

TIDAL is an exciting new campaign coalition working in Leeds on issues of international debt and trade. It takes over from Leeds Jubilee 2000 Network and incorporates Leeds Trade Justice Movement. Nationally, we work closely with the Trade Justice Movement and Jubilee Debt Campaign. We need an energetic administrator and campaigner with admin skills, understanding of the issues, and campaign experience.

- Two days a week
- NJC pay spine 26: £17,823 pro rata
- One year initial contract
- Closing date: Friday 9 August
- Interview date: 30th August



For further details ring Michael Fairclough on 0113 2444764

Chapelton Carnival

If you can't do the Mela, there's the Caribbean Carnival in Potternewton Park on Bank Holiday Monday, 26 August, and Chapel Allerton Festival the following Saturday, August 31st. TIDAL should be at all of these, so please offer your help as above.

Looking back and looking ahead

The Ceilidh

Goodbye Jubilee, Hello TIDAL... we shared memories, and said a very appreciative goodbye to Hilary who had chaired Leeds Jubilee 2000 Network through six exciting years. Ben reminded us of some of the high spots of those years, and Tim introduced us to the Trade Campaign. And we danced, winding ourselves into an intricate chain, reminiscent of many Jubilee chains in many places near and far. The rickshaw was there, a trademark feature of Leeds Jubilee in many of our memories.

But at the same time we looked forward, with Bill's splendid new TIDAL flag above the rickshaw, the CAFOD group assembling a fine banner for the TJM Mass Lobby of Parliament, while others were busily signing up yet more people for train and bus tickets to the lobby.

Trade Justice Lobby

On June 19th we went in our purple to Westminster, with our CAFOD scarves and Christian Aid pennants. Well over 80 of us from Leeds and the surrounding



A ruly mob, armed with balloons and sunhats, gathers outside the Houses of Parliament on 19 June.

area went to be inspired by the rally speakers, to shout and wave in the Mexican wave, and to press on our MPs the absolute necessity of changes in unjust, unfair trade rules and debt cancellation. We've been disappointed by the outcome of the G8 Summit, but we've years of debt campaigning behind us and we know that successes come slowly, piecemeal, and are hard won. We've made an exhilarating start and now we're settling down to the long slog. And so – we're looking for a **person!**

A new job opportunity

On the previous page, you'll find our advertisement for an administrator and campaigner. We must sadly say goodbye to Tim who is moving on to a full-time job. So we'll have a new face, starting at the end of September. Initially the job will be two days a week. Do you know anyone who might be interested? Job description and application forms are available from Tim on 0113 245 4700. Closing date is Friday 9 August.

Mary Keynes

What the lobby achieved...

The Mass Lobby was a great day out for all who were able to go. But more than that, it was a fantastic success in putting the importance of the Trade Campaign to our elected representatives. 331 MPs were lobbied in person by more than 12,000 constituents – and many more sent representatives out to the queue on their behalf – that's over half the House of Commons. When Peter Mandelson came out to meet his constituents you could see his jaw drop at the size of queue!

Tony Blair and trade minister Baroness Symons met with representatives from the Trade Justice Movement. 256 MPs have signed the cross-party trade justice early day motion, and media coverage, both local and national, was great, with a particularly powerful piece on Newsnight that evening. Not bad for the beginning of a campaign!



Dying for a glass of water?

TIM SUNDERLAND REPORTS ON THE THREAT OF WATER PRIVATISATION IN GHANA...

I moved into a house with metered water recently. It made me notice for the first time how much clean water I waste every day. We're so used to affordable clean water in the UK that we forget it's a life and death issue.

PHILOMENA FOURKU is a widow with six children, who lives in one of the poorest parts of Ghana's capital, Accra. She spends almost all of her daily earnings on clean water and even then the supply is unreliable. A lady called Amadu who lives near by says,

'Sometimes I will go without food so my grandchildren have water. The government should understand this – water comes before food. Soon we will have to drink air.' The situation in the rural areas of Ghana is even worse, with the majority of people forced to drink from infected sources.

Prices doubled

Britain's water infrastructure, although in private hands today, was built and financed by the state. What Ghana needs is massive investment in its water infrastructure, to lower prices in the cities and expand supply to the rural areas. Instead, the developed world is forcing Ghana into allowing multinational companies to run the profitable water supplies in the cities and will not require them to invest in infrastructure at all. Prices in the cities have already doubled in preparation for privatisation, leaving even middle class people struggling to buy enough water. And because all the profits will go back to rich country headquarters, there will be no money to expand provision in the rural areas.

So how is the developed world forcing this appalling deal on the people of Ghana? It is using its financial power. Further debt relief has been made

conditional on the sale of Ghana's water sector. For those of us who have campaigned long and hard for debt relief, it is upsetting to see conditions imposed that will make life harder for some of the world's poorest people.

UK withholding aid

Claire Short's Department for International Development is also withholding £10 million in aid which it promised the government of Ghana to improve water supplies in its second biggest city, Kumasi. This money will not be released until Ghana signs over control of its water supplies to a multinational. This use of aid money to bully the government is unacceptable and short circuits the democratic process in Ghana.

There is also an important connection with the Trade Campaign. Not content simply to increase trade in *products*, the World Trade Organisation is also keen to promote trade in *services* under an agreement known as GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services). At the moment, GATS doesn't include public services unless governments choose to

include them. However, the world's most powerful countries are increasingly using their influence to open up trade in services in developing countries to multinationals. Ghana has already added telecommunications and secondary education to its list of areas open to foreign companies.

Action in Leeds

So the rich world is forcing Ghana to hand over its water supply to multinationals on terms that will make the companies wealthy and water more expensive for ordinary people. Here in Leeds, we will be having an autumn event in the city centre to raise awareness about this issue. Early ideas include chain-gangs of people filling a bath in Millennium Square with buckets of water carried from the river! If you want to help organise the event or would like more information about this issue, please contact Tim in the office. If you want to do something about it before the autumn, please write to Claire Short, Department for International Development, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

This comment from the Christian Council of Ghana says it all:

'To privatize water is like handing down death sentences to the majority of the urban and rural poor in Ghana because they cannot afford to pay the economic rent for such services. The right to water is a fundamental, God-given right to all people that dwell on this earth.'

Information from the Christian Aid report, *Master or Servant? How global trade can work to the benefit of poor people*, and an open letter to the World Bank by Martin Dent, co-founder of Jubilee 2000.



For more information on water campaigning, see www.watermatters.org.uk

Elvis takes the bus

On 9th June, around 70 people gathered at South Parade Baptist Church to celebrate the journey of the Red Princess (a 40 year old red London bus) to the G8 summit in Genoa last year and to be challenged to keep on campaigning until the debt is cancelled. The Red Princess is still on the road... and made it to London for the Trade Justice Lobby of Parliament with Elvis on board!



Ludovico Einaudi to play in Leeds for debt campaign

Italian composer and pianist, Ludovico Einaudi, who appears frequently on Classic FM is willing to play in Leeds to raise money for the Jubilee Debt Campaign. We hope to organise a concert for mid-November. If you would like to help make this happen or for further info, contact Jo at jozart@fish.co.uk or 0113 2740332.



What else can I do?

Trade Campaign in Bradford For those of you who live nearer Bradford City Centre than Leeds, there will be a stall plugging the Trade Campaign on Centenary

Square on the afternoon of Saturday 27 July. So pop along, or if you want to help, contact Tim on 07816 749 307.

Petition It is now possible to sign Jubilee Debt Campaign's petition to the Queen online through their website (and to make everybody else you know do so).

Greenbelt Jubilee Debt Campaign are looking for people to person a stall at Greenbelt festival. If you're going, contact Julia Ruxton on julia.ruxton@virgin.net or ring the office if you haven't got email.

Commonwealth Games On 28th July, JDC supporters are needed to line the route of the Marathon – contact Stephen Pennells spe@duciehigh.manchester.sch.uk

Prayer If you want to pray for the developing world and, in particular the success of the debt and trade campaigns, there is a meeting every second Monday of the month 8–9pm at South Parade Baptist Church. All are welcome. Contact Jo: jozart@fish.co.uk or 0113 2740332.

Gordon Brown The next national gathering of debt campaigners will be in September. Jubilee Debt Campaign are trying to fix a time when Gordon Brown can come and speak to us, so the date is not fixed yet. There are also plans for a debt speaker tour at the end of August. Further details from the office nearer the time or on www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

trade FOR change

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20 New Market Street, Leeds, LS1 6DG (opposite Corn Exchange)
Tel: 0113 2425356 Fax: 0113 2446986
E-mail: info@tradeforchange.co.uk www.tradeforchange.co.uk

STILL WITH US?

We have assumed that because you were on the Leeds Jubilee 2000 Network mailing list or have signed up recently, you wish to receive our newsletters. But if not, please contact Tim at the office. Thanks.

Unstoppable!

Once again, Roger Harington (now a local Councillor) has pedalled the debt message to the G8 Summit. Here's his report...

'Two Scots, one Irishman, and four Englishmen pedalled the 900 miles from Vancouver to Calgary backed up by one English woman in a van carrying tents and baggage. We did our version of *The Merchant of Venice* when we joined in occasional campaigning on the way – some press and TV coverage – and joined in a couple of demos in Calgary. The weather was wonderful, the mountains sensational, the Summit disappointing. Lots to review before planning to cyle to France next year?'

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. www.jubileedebtcampaign.org

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. www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk

TIDAL

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Christian Aid Office

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