



Dressed for success!

Jacinta Kent, TIDAL Surge Co-ordinator, recalls a fantastic evening of ethical ethnic fashion fusion...

Fact: In 2005, 1.9 million tonnes of textiles were disposed of in the UK, of which 1.2 million tonnes went straight in the dustbin.

There is an alternative, however, and you don't have to sacrifice your style to do it... On 30 September Surge and TIDAL joined forces to create CLOTH 07, the ethical fashion show with a difference, promoting the 'less is more' school of thought by showcasing a range of diverse, stylish and contemporary clothes which were predominantly vintage, reused or recycled.

As Surge speaker Paul Butland said: 'We cannot just buy our way to justice; it will

take more than consumer power to help redress the devastating impact most industries have on people and our environment worldwide. It's not simply what we buy or don't buy, but rather, how sustainably we live our entire lives.'

Many thanks to the 200 TIDAL supporters and their friends and families who packed the Brudenell Social Club and made CLOTH 07 such a roaring success – fulfilling its aim not only to educate but also to raise funds for TIDAL and Surge, and inspire all who came.

Get creative this Christmas party season by checking out the suppliers listed on the back page or visit your local charity shops and vintage boutiques.

Welcome worker!

Hey! I'm Michelle, the new co-ordinator for Stop Climate Chaos Leeds, based at the TIDAL office, usually Wednesdays. I am also a final year student at Leeds University studying Environmental Conservation and a volunteer for Friends of the Earth and TIDAL.

Before university brought me to Leeds I lived in the easternmost point of England – Lowestoft! I started volunteering for TIDAL in January, relatively new to the world of activism. TIDAL has been a fountain of knowledge and motivation which definitely gave me the campaigning bug.

I am extremely passionate about protecting the environment, combating climate change and working towards a more sustainable future. I am really looking forward to working as part of the movement that strives to tackle climate change and inspires others to do so too.

If you would like to get involved in SCC Leeds please email me on info@sccleeds.org or call 07723 352097. Also, keep an eye on the website for upcoming events and actions you can get involved in: www.sccleeds.org



Stop the EU's dodgy trade deals

Get the message to your MP that the UK Parliament needs to urgently debate Europe's unfair trade deals (EPAs) on 76 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Take action by going to www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk and follow the link under 'Urgent Action to your MP'.

ACTION

Whatever you
do may be
insignificant.
But it is very
important
that you do it.

MAHATMA GHANDI

Joan Machin writes: Have you been to Leeds Art Gallery lately? Apart from all the displays, they've renovated the old Victorian Tiled Hall and turned it into a café and a shop. It really is spectacular.

The only disappointment is that the café does not sell Fairtrade tea and coffee, contrary to what the notice says above the counter. True, they sell Fairtrade orange juice, but for such an outstanding venue in a Fairtrade City, this simply isn't good enough. The assistants at the café say that the tea and coffee they serve is fairly traded, but it doesn't carry the Fairtrade mark. I hope I'm not alone in wanting at least all their tea, coffee and sugar to be genuinely Fairtrade.

The franchise for the café is held by Logistik, a local firm. Now, how do you think we can persuade their management to stock produce with the Fairtrade mark? You've guessed, it's people power, and I'm hoping that the readers of TIDAL's newsletter will lead the way.

Contact them either by emailing info@tiledhallcafe.co.uk, or by writing to: Dirk Mischendahl (Managing Director), Logistik, Carlton Mills, Pickering Street, Leeds, LS12 2QG – and, of course, make sure you ask for Fairtrade tea and/or coffee when you visit the café.

Climate campaigners march in Leeds

Leeds Christian Aid's Katherine Hogg looks back on the day the world came together in Leeds to spread the message to 'Cut the Carbon'

On Saturday 13 August hundreds of climate change activists welcomed one of history's longest protest marches into Leeds.

More than 300 people gathered to greet Christian Aid's 'Cut the Carbon' marchers as they walked through Leeds city centre.

The main group of marchers began in Belfast on their 1,000 mile trek across the UK to pressurise the government and businesses into action on carbon emissions over the summer, finally ending the march on 2 October at the Stock Exchange in London.

Leeds comedian Tony Vino and singer-songwriter Iain Archer, formerly of Snow Patrol, took to the top of an open double decker bus in Victoria Gardens to show their support and entertain the crowd, whilst performers from *Carnival Messiah* got activists dancing.

Also among the crowd were The Right Reverend John Packer, the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, and Monsignor Peter Rosser, representing the Catholic Diocese of Leeds.

Monsignor Rosser told the marchers: 'Your bruised and blistered feet and aching bones will surely make this demand heard.'

The marchers arrived at Leeds after passing Drax and Ferrybridge power stations, dubbed 'Megawatt Valley'. Tim Jones, one of the marchers from Leeds and an activist with the World Development Movement, claimed that Drax emits more than Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania combined and encouraged everyone to put pressure on the UK government to strengthen the Climate Change Bill and commit to an 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050.

After 80 days and 1,000 miles, the historic carbon march has now ended, but the campaign goes on. During his 11 week trek Tim Jones wrote a regular blog of his experiences <http://climatechangemarch.blogspot.com>. In his final entry he said 'We can never know all the effects of our campaigning actions. The world is too complex for that. But the threat of climate change is so great we can't not campaign. However, this march will have been a failure if it has not inspired more people to campaign. The science is saying we are almost on the brink of runaway climate change. We have to act now. But we also have to continue campaigning year-after-year – no one protest, postcard or direct action can ever be enough.'



ACTION

Take action now and email your MP about the climate change bill:

www.christianaid.org.uk/stoppoverty/climatechange/march/email_your_mp.aspx

Food, fairness and the planet, but where next?

Jean Martin of the TIDAL steering group presents some of the challenges currently facing ethical consumers

Never before has ethical consumerism presented us with the number of dilemmas we face today. While the range and popularity of Fairtrade products has increased, the question is, 'How do we choose between competing priorities?' Let us consider:

- Fairtrade versus food miles
- Food miles versus farmers' livelihoods
- Packaging waste versus recourse to toxic materials.

Many Fairtrade products do have a large carbon footprint in relation to transport. However, goods produced nearer to home can have an even bigger one. Think about the energy input in terms of hothouses, tractor fuel and the manufacture of machinery and agrochemicals! Then add a touch of sympathy for farmers in the developing world. Fairtrade provides a better deal for these farmers.

We complain about excess packaging. The conflict here is between food hygiene and prevention of physical damage to food versus the materials and energy used to make the packaging. Paper comes from renewable sources, plastic from oil.

Major supermarket chains are making Fairtrade products more accessible than ever. But how can any supermarket justify its commitment to ethical policies when it wraps up its food in packaging that largely doesn't have to be there? Or imports food from faraway



locations when equivalent produce with a low embodied energy is available locally?

Waste doesn't arise from excessive packaging alone. Fruits of varied size actually suit some families better, but EU standards (fruits having to be a certain size/shape etc) plus shipping in non-local, out-of-season foods also lead to high levels of waste.

As the end of 2007 nears there is a clear need to widen the debate about these issues. Fairtrade Fortnight (25 February – 7 March 2008) offers ethical consumers in Leeds this opportunity. Watch the TIDAL website for activities during this period.

TIDAL supporters can also join a public consultation on one supermarket chain's Food Ethical Policy to establish its ethical priorities over the next 3–5 years. The Co-operative invites you to visit www.co-operative.co.uk/en/food/foodethicalpolicy to register your views. Let's hope other supermarkets follow suit!

Leeds welcomes Palestinian Fairtrader

Nasser Abufarha, of the Jenin-based Palestinian Fair Trade Association, invited campaigners to 'pick a date' with him during Ramadan at a supporters' talk and tasting session. This had been organised by the



Leeds Fairtrade City Group at the Host Centre in Chapeltown, during an October UK tour to promote the work of the organisation Nasser helped found in 2004.

The social entrepreneur works with the organisation's network of over 1,700 member Fairtrade producer cooperatives in the West Bank. He outlined the progress of how the now well-established Fairtrade model could potentially support viable social, economic and political empowerment for Palestine, where farmers struggle with the ongoing effects of confiscation and occupation of much agricultural land, coupled with the restriction of movement for both people and produce.

The PFTA's work with Zaytoun in the UK includes organising 'Meet the Producer' visits, raising awareness and increasing imports of extra virgin olive oil, couscous, almonds, dates, za'atar herbs and soap. Small producers are offered support with product improvement on their way to gaining organic and Fairtrade certification. Nasser also met with the Fairtrade Foundation seeking to progress the development of UK certification standards for their high quality olive oil. PFTA is already a member of IFAT – the International Fair Trade Association. For stockists of PFTA's products see www.zaytoun.org, tel 0845 345 4887.

Give your MP a chance!

How well do you know your MP? And, more importantly, how much does he/she know about you – about your feelings as a TIDAL supporter about global poverty, the impact of debt repayment and unfair trade rules, and overshadowing all these, the devastating effects that climate change will have – is already having – on the lives and welfare of the world's poor?

Now is the time for you to tell him or her – in person. Join with other TIDAL and SCC Leeds supporters in your constituency to impress your concerns on your MP. Drought, floods, disease, hunger, war: global warming is the new apocalypse and it is already raging among the people of the global South and the extreme North. We in the rich world with our extravagant carbon-based lifestyle must bear the responsibility for the growing disaster. But if we act with wisdom and courage, we are able to mitigate the effects of climate change and gradually reverse the process.

The government's Climate Change Bill is to be published this month. It is a brave attempt to show the rest of the industrial nations a way to confront and reverse the menace – but it is not quite brave enough. We need to demonstrate to our MPs that there is a real body of opinion in support of a strong and effective Bill.

To do this, we must talk to our MPs. Here's an example of the difference this can make:

It works!

Patrick Hall is the Labour MP for Bedford. In August he told a constituent that the government's bill will be challenging enough as it is. He also suggested people in his constituency don't care about climate change.

In October, Friends of the Earth activists collected a hundred postcards in Bedford. Then they met with Patrick Hall and talked to him about the Climate Bill.

On 24 October, Patrick Hall asked Gordon Brown in Parliamentary Questions: *'The Government's target is that carbon dioxide emissions from this country should be reduced by at least 60 per cent by 2050. Does my Right Honourable Friend accept that a growing body of informed scientific opinion suggests that this target is perhaps insufficiently ambitious, and*

will he agree to review this matter in the context of the Climate Change Bill?'

The science is clear: the current proposals will fail to hold back catastrophic global warming. CO₂ emissions from shipping and aircraft (the fastest growing source of emissions) must be included in the Bill. The target for reducing our CO₂ emissions must be at least 80% by 2050. The rate of reduction of CO₂ emissions must be monitored by annual, not five-yearly, targets.

November in Leeds

ACTION

Stop Climate Chaos Leeds was founded by TIDAL to spearhead the campaign in Leeds against climate change. We are now working with Friends of the Earth and Leeds World Development Movement to organise group visits to each of the Leeds MPs before the end of November. There will be a constituency contact for each MP who will make an appointment to meet

him and arrange a group visit, probably on a Saturday in November. Don't worry if you feel you are not well informed on the subject – there will be others who are. You can find out your MP's name by calling 020 7219 4272, or go to www.parliament.uk. Then contact one of the following people:

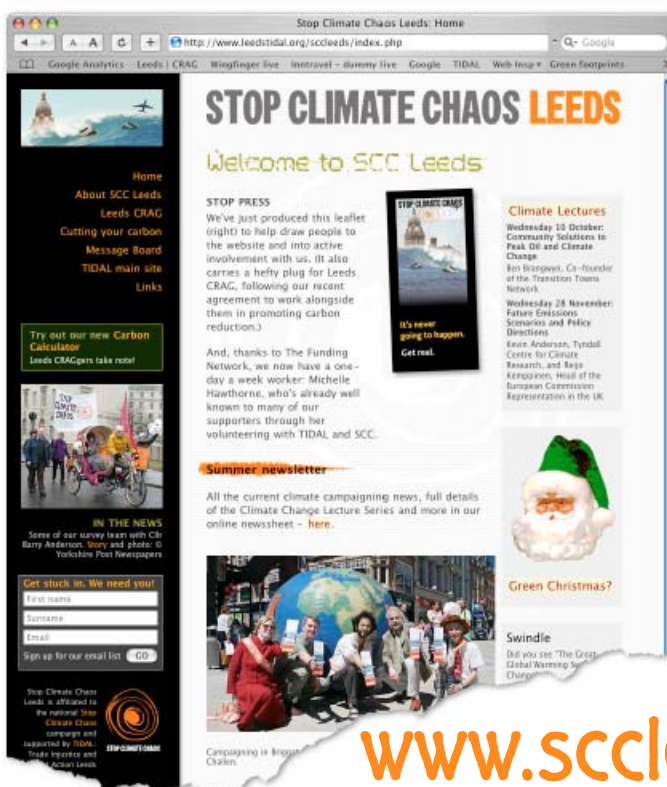
■ If your MP is Greg Mulholland, Fabian Hamilton, Paul Truswell, or Hilary Benn, contact Mary Keynes on 0113 262 3330 or mary@keynes.wanadoo.co.uk.

■ If your MP is George Mudie, John Battle, Colin Burgon, Colin Challen, Mike Woods, or none of these, contact Michelle Hawthorne on 07723 352 097 or info@sccleeds.org.

To read up more about the issues and arguments, go to www.icount.org.uk and follow the links to 'Make the Climate Bill Count'.

Together we can stop climate chaos. But we need your help now!

Mary Keynes

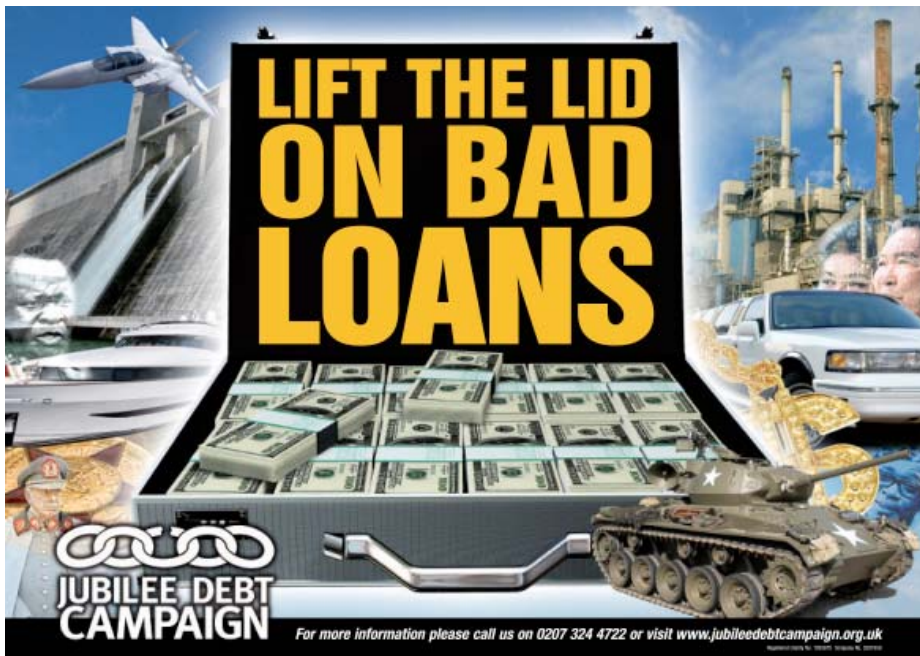


Don't forget

to keep an eye on the SCC Leeds website...

- news
- forums
- links
- ideas

www.sccleeds.org



According to **Jubilee Debt Campaign**, the very poorest countries in the world are still paying over 4 million dollars **every hour** to the rich world – repaying debts which in many cases arose from irresponsible or self-interested lending. It's time to lift the lid on illegitimate debts.

Rich country lenders have often done very well out of the loans they gave to poor countries, winning political support or lucrative contracts.

The poor people in debtor countries often did not benefit at all.

But it is they who suffer from the demand that these debts be repaid, as the need to pay off debts drains their countries of money to fund healthcare, education and other essential services.

TIDAL is therefore joining JDC in calling on the UK and other rich country governments to thoroughly investigate past lending in order to uncover unjust debts; cancel all unjust debts, including all that are illegitimate or unpayable; and put in place responsible lending and export policies that will prevent another build-up of unjust debt.

You can add your weight by going to

ACTION

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk and sending a message to International Development minister, Douglas Alexander. We also have Lift the Lid postcards, posters and petition forms – all available from the TIDAL office.

As part of International Debt Week, on Sunday 14 October TIDAL set up shop in Briggate asking the people of Leeds to petition the UK government to Lift the Lid on illegitimate debts. Thanks to all the people who signed the petition, and big thanks to TIDAL co-chair Bill and TIDAL volunteers who staffed the stall and engaged with so many local people on the issue.

How do we halve poverty in seven years?

That was the topic that Tearfund's head of campaigns, Ben Niblett, gamely tackled when he spoke at a recent TIDAL event.

He talked of the tangle of inter-related problems that challenge international development: debt, trade, HIV and – above all – climate change. His approach, he said, is to look for any loose end and start tugging. He also paid tribute to the inspiration he continues to receive from TIDAL. It seems we have a reputation to maintain!

Interestingly, although Ben didn't mention this, one of the most hopeful answers to the question in the title involves a report by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Debt, Aid and Trade which is being published in early November. The report urges the UK government to consider the implementation of a '0.005% stamp duty on all sterling foreign exchange transactions to provide additional revenue to help bridge the significant funding gap required to meet the Millennium Development Goals.'

Apparently the total sterling traded in 2007 is likely to be around £34 trillion – of which the SSD, if implemented, would skim off a mere £2.4 billion for poverty relief. Maybe TIDAL ought to be campaigning on this?

Bill Phelps

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Could you be TIDAL's next worker?

We will shortly be advertising for a part-time co-ordinator. Details will be posted on our website at www.leadstidal.org



Ten tips for a better Christmas

TIDAL's treasurer Antonia Roberts gives us pointers to an ethical and low impact yuletide. Avoid guilt and an empty bank balance on Boxing Day!

- 1 Instead of buying unwanted gifts, concentrate your efforts on spending time with friends, family and helping others less fortunate to restore the real spirit of Christmas. Find out about volunteering in Leeds at www.val.org.uk.
- 2 Visit, phone or send e-cards to friends rather than sending Christmas cards.
- 3 You can give to your favourite charity at the same time as giving to loved ones with sites like www.goodgifts.org.uk, www.oxfamunwrapped.org.uk or www.wwf.org.uk
- 4 Importing plastic trees from Hong Kong or cutting down CO₂ absorbing trees doesn't seem very ethical, so how about taking a creative approach and decorating a fallen branch or the clothes horse? For the traditional amongst you, try a living, organically grown tree – see www.soilassociation.org/christmas, turn off the lights when not in the room and decorate with hand-made, natural or Fairtrade decorations.
- 5 Consider alternatives to socks and perfume with non-material gifts like gift vouchers for the theatre, www.theatretokens.com or scour the second hand shops, www.freecycle.org or www.bookcrossing.com – but nothing is more thoughtful than a hand made gift if you are feeling creative.
- 6 Support Fairtrade producers with gifts from www.ethicalsuperstore.com or www.simplyfair.co.uk. Go for eco toys and gadgets at www.naturalcollection.com or www.cat.org.uk.
- 7 Wrap presents in recycled wrapping paper or newspaper – but be warned, it takes twice as long as you end up reading it all.
- 8 Enjoy an ethical, low-impact Christmas dinner with locally-sourced or Fairtrade produce: www.fairtrade.org.uk. Up to 40% of festive food is thrown away, so help the waist and the waste (sorry!) with sensible portions.
- 9 Remember to take plenty of re-usable bags with you when you go shopping and protest to your local supermarket manager about excess packaging.
- 10 Finally, have fun and consider making a New Year's resolution to continue your good habits with an ethical, low-impact 2008!



Vintage, reused and recycled clothing

Blue Rinse Vintage – original and customised retro gear. 9 Kirkgate, Leeds, LS1 7DH, www.bluerinseleeds.co.uk, 0113 245 1735

Silver Birch Designs @ Ryan's Vintage – original one-off designs and customised garments made using vintage materials: 07759 818 420, www.myspace.com/silverbirchdesigns

Dimple Designs – contemporary, stylish and cutting edge designs made using recycled waste materials. For photos of garments, email dimplekhetani@gmail.com

Nirvana – East meets west designs, original pieces made using recycled sari material with bags handmade from recycled newspapers by ladies in Institutes of Reform. For photos of garments, email nirvana@btconnect.com or call 07989 517 274.



By pure coincidence, new SCC Leeds worker, Michelle Hawthorne, has also concocted a set of tips for a green Christmas. See www.sccleeds.org

What's on...

Nov

Climate Change Bill Contact your MP this month about making it stronger

15–25 **Together for Peace Festival** starting on 15 Nov with film 'In One City' www.togetherforpeace.co.uk

Tues 20 **Fair Trade Winter Fair**, Leeds University emma@universallyleeds.co.uk

Sat 24 **Leeds Fairtrade Fayre** St Chad's Centre, Otley Rd, 10am–4pm

Wed 28 **Leeds Climate Change Lectures** 'Future Emissions Scenarios and Policy Directions' Kevin Anderson (Tyndall Centre) and Reijo Kemppinen (EC). info: www.sustainablefuturesleeds.co.uk

Dec

Sat 1 **FoE March in Huddersfield** for a strong Climate Bill

Sun 2 **The Climate's Changing** SCC Leeds and Peopl&Planet fundraiser: music & spoken word. Doors 7pm, Brudenell Social Club, Hyde Park. £3.50 adv/conc £4 on the door. info@sccleeds.org or call 07723 352097

3–14 **UN Climate Change summit**, Indonesia

Sat 8 **National Climate March**, London info: www.campaigncc.org

Jan 2008

23–27 **World Economic Forum** in Davos, Switzerland

Feb

Mon 25 Start of **Fairtrade Fortnight**

See also www.leadstidal.org and our email updates

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