



# TIDAL *news*

Trade Injustice and Debt Action Leeds

WINTER 2009

[www.leedstidal.org](http://www.leedstidal.org)

Are you riding The Wave? On Saturday 5th December, thousands of people will march the streets of London as part of the UK's biggest ever demonstration on climate change.



Just like we did in 1998 for the G8 human chain in Birmingham, or in 2005 for the Edinburgh Make Poverty History march, this year we've chartered a train – The Wave Express – that will take over 500 people from Bradford, Leeds and Doncaster to the march and back again.

On board there'll be activities for all ages, an unbeatable atmosphere and with tickets at a mere £30 full fare or £20 concession, The Wave Express promises to be a spectacular day out!

## The details

We'll be travelling from Bradford, Leeds and Doncaster direct to London King's Cross. The train departs Bradford Forster Square at 0650, Leeds at 0720 and Doncaster at 0756, arriving in London at 0950. It will depart London at 1855, and return to Doncaster at 2034, Leeds at 2108 and Bradford Forster Square at 2142.

Tickets cost £30 full fare and £20 for the unwaged and people on low incomes. Under 5s travel free, but there are a limited number of Under 5's and Concession seats, so please book these early to avoid disappointment (see box above).



## How to book

There are two ways of booking your train tickets, either by post or online...

**POSTAL BOOKINGS** Please print off the enclosed booking form and send it with a cheque made payable to TIDAL and a Stamped Addressed Envelope to:

The Wave Express, TIDAL, 20 New Market Street, Leeds, LS1 6DG

**ONLINE BOOKINGS** Go to our secure online payment facility at [www.leedscopnet.info/wave-express](http://www.leedscopnet.info/wave-express)

Please note that if you are a member of The Co-operative or an Oxfam supporter you can purchase tickets at a subsidised rate. Book through The Co-operative website to claim your reduced price tickets. You'll need either your Co-op membership number or the code that's been given to Oxfam supporters to access the discount.

**ACTION**

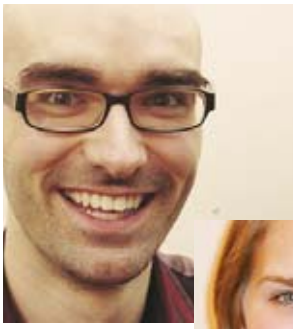
The Wave Express isn't just being organised by TIDAL – there are a host of other organisations making it happen, including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Leeds Justice and Peace Commission, and the Co-op.

Finally, while the main attraction of the day will undoubtedly be the march through the streets of London, there will also be workshops and talks in London to attend in the morning, plus a host of fun, interesting and family-friendly events on the train itself.

**So what are you waiting for? Pack up some sandwiches, get on board and enjoy the ride!**

## OR WHY NOT BIKE IT?

As always, there are some who want to raise awareness by pedalling to the event – including Mary Keynes, who'll be 80 on the day she sets off. Info at <http://climatechains.blogspot.com>



## Hello all

*We write to you bang in the middle of one of the busiest periods we've ever had. We're firing on all cylinders as we organise a couple awareness-raising events, deliver a handful of talks, disseminate more useful information to our supporters than ever before, charter a train, and prep some really exciting research and campaigning projects for next year (all top secret for now!).*

*In this update we've got bad news (about airports) and good news (about resources and trains), action (against vultures) and info (on UN summits), plus a whole load of events to challenge and excite you.*

*Also, please note this will be the last newsletter we send out in this format! We're moving this communication online to offer you more information quicker, and we're also introducing a spanking new annual report. Make sure you continue to receive updates from us – check out the article to find out how.*

*Best Wishes,  
Chris + Lizzie*

# Copenhagen FAQ

The Copenhagen climate talks: what are they, and why do they matter? Here's a quick guide to what all the fuss is about...

### What is the climate conference?

Very simply, the December climate conference is a UN summit involving over 192 countries at which all present will try to agree a legally binding treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The talks are scheduled to take place 7–18 December in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### What do we need out of a treaty?

Depends on who you are! Many are calling for what they term a FAB agreement – that's a Fair, Ambitious, and Binding treaty.

**Fair** – Industrialised nations created the climate problem, so they should do the most to resolve it. Developed nations must cut greenhouse gases 40% by 2020, and 95% (allowing global cuts of 80%) by 2050. They must give financial aid to developing countries (around \$160 billion per annum) to assist adaptation and mitigation efforts, and all countries must work together to share low-carbon technologies.

**Ambitious** – A deal that prevents warming above pre-industrial levels by 2°C, stabilises concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at 350ppm (parts per million), causes global emissions to peak around

2015, and reduces global emissions by at least 50% by 2050, or more likely 80% by 2050.

**Binding** – Governance is key to a strong treaty. There must be robust, fair and democratic systems in place to ensure emissions reductions targets are met, aid is distributed, and technology shared.

### How close are we to a good deal at Copenhagen?

While there are some encouraging signs, the fact remains that we have an enormous way to go before we secure the deal needed to stop catastrophic climate change.

Developed nations agree we must prevent warming over 2°C and have pledged to cut their emissions 80% by 2050. But concrete action and ambitious short-term targets have simply failed to materialise as yet. Developing nations are unequivocal that they will not agree any emissions cuts until developed nations lead by example. Until this happens, there is a very real threat of deadlock in December.

For more info and further reading, check out our Copenhagen FAQ at: [www.leedscopnet.info/copenhagen-faqs](http://www.leedscopnet.info/copenhagen-faqs)

## Transition North Co-operators and Transition Working Together Friday 6 November Slaithwaite

This conference will see the coming together of two of the most important social movements of the last two hundred years – The Co-operative and Transition towns network – as they discuss how best to work together to promote sustainable living through transition and co-operative principles.

Speakers confirmed include:

**Rob Hopkins** – Co-founder of Transition Network

**Peter Couchman** – CEO The Plunkett Foundation

**Christine Tacon** – Managing Director Co-operative Farms

**Bob Burlton** – Principal of 'Addressing the Climate Threat' (ACT), a pan-European co-operative initiative on climate change. Also Chair of Co-operative Financial Services.

The event is on Friday 6th November in Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire, and will run from 10.30am to 5pm, with evening entertainment from 7pm to 10pm To find out more and to apply for a place at this free event, visit [www.transitionnorth.net](http://www.transitionnorth.net)

# Demand a strong vultures law

**ACTION**

The Jubilee Debt Campaign are encouraging people to ask the Treasury to put a strong vultures law in the Queen's Speech in November. Vulture funds are private companies which try to scavenge profit from the debts of some of the world's poorest countries. Vulture funds have brought claims of over \$1.5 billion against heavily indebted poor countries in recent years.

The UK government is considering a new law to restrict vulture funds. In July, it launched a public consultation on the law, but it has yet to make up its mind. Treasury Minister Ian Pearson is in charge of taking the decision about whether to turn the proposed new law into a priority for the next parliamentary session, by putting it into the Queen's Speech on 18 November.

Please write to Ian Pearson and ask him to put a strong vultures law in the Queen's Speech. You can find a template letter at <http://tinyurl.com/strong-vultures-law>, email him at [pearsoni@parliament.uk](mailto:pearsoni@parliament.uk) or write to him at Suite 1, Grazebrook House, Peartree Lane, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 0XW.



# NO LBA EXPANSION

**After an epic four-hour Plans Panel West meeting, the Council committee approved the £28m expansion of Leeds Bradford International Airport. The vote itself only passed on a knife edge – out of the 8 Councillors present for the decision, 1 abstained, 3 voted against, and 4 voted for.**

Obviously this is a hugely disappointing result for the campaign, for local residents, and for anyone concerned about the devastating impacts of climate change. But though this expansion has been approved, already we've achieved much in this campaign;

- We have demonstrated the strength of public opposition to airport expansion. Out of an unprecedented 2,200 letters of representation to the Council, about 80% were against expansion.
- We have stopped unconstrained growth at LBA. When the proposal was first

considered, there was a danger that growth of up to 7m passengers per annum (mppa) would be allowed – up from 3mppa! Now further permission must be sought if the airport wishes to go above 4.5mppa.

- We have engaged Councillors with the issue. From the arguments they were using and questions they were asking, we unequivocally got our point across. Such a tight vote in the face of overwhelming odds is an achievement in itself!
- We have built a strong, nimble, powerful coalition that has a model for future work. This is not the first time we'll have to respond to an issue like this.

An enormous thank you to all who have helped this campaign so far – from sending emails and letters to the Council, cajoling passers-by to sign even more letters, organising campaign events, to writing official campaign responses and greeting Councillors as they entered the meetings – all of this has demonstrably made a difference. When another opportunity crops up to restrict airport growth we'll be ready for action, and with the hubbub we caused this time it'll be that bit easier to win next time round!

# Beehive shout

**The Beehive fair trade shop in Chapel Allerton is urgently seeking new volunteers to staff the shop and help out at occasional stalls. Duties would mainly involve unpacking orders and pricing, stocking shelves, staffing the till, preparing sale or return orders and dealing with returns.**

**At present the shop is open on reduced hours due to insufficient staff, but we would like to return to opening hours of Tuesday – Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm.**

**Anyone interested or wanting more information, please contact Alex Davies on 0113 262 0124 or via [thebeehiveleeds@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thebeehiveleeds@yahoo.co.uk)**



# TIDAL COMMUNICATIONS

Still want to receive updates from us? Let us know, because we're changing the way we communicate with our supporters...

## NB: Take note!!

Instead of informing you of what's happening in Leeds three times per year via this newsletter, **we're switching that communication online.**

It's near impossible to give you decent notice of events via a thrice-yearly newsletter, but we can update you every month via our e-update, and you can check up-to-the-minute info on events, training and news on our new [www.leedscopnet.info](http://www.leedscopnet.info) website.

We do, however, want to produce and send out a new annual report to our supporters. This would contain a review of the year past, and outline plans for the coming year.

## Leeds COP Network

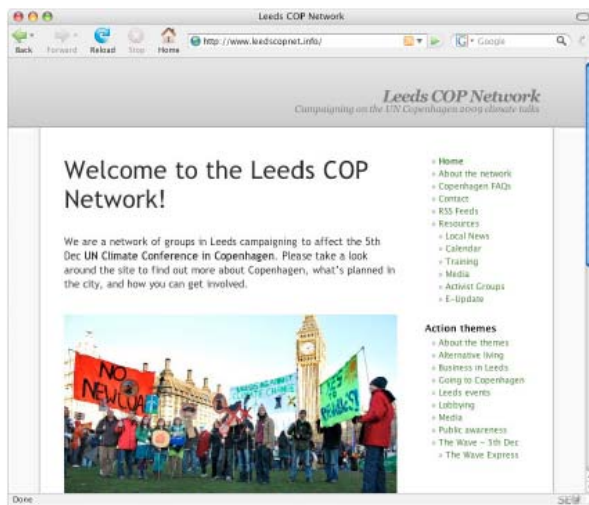
After months in the making, we're delighted to be able to announce our latest project – Leeds COP Network. Born from discussions between activists at June's Copenhagen Climate Café, Leeds COP Network is a website that aims to help connect and resource climate campaigners in Leeds. You can visit the site at [www.leedscopnet.info](http://www.leedscopnet.info)

What's on the site? Quite simply, there's a whole host of resources for the Leeds climate campaigner. These include a comprehensive calendar of local and national events, a list of training for activists, local media contacts, details of local campaigns groups and even a feed of the latest local news. We've also got a no-nonsense weekly e-bulletin that summarises the latest info, to save you trawling through the site on a regular basis.

### Make sure you stay informed!

- **Join our e-update email list by sending a blank email to [leedstidal-subscribe@lists.riseup.net](mailto:leedstidal-subscribe@lists.riseup.net)**
- **Visit our new project website at [www.leedscopnet.info](http://www.leedscopnet.info) for up-to-the-minute news, events and training**
- **If you want to receive our new annual reports, please email, phone or write to us and let us know; [info@leedstidal.org](mailto:info@leedstidal.org), 0113 391 7917, 20 New Market St, Leeds LS1 6DG**

PS – Got no access to the internet, but still want access to the latest news? Get in touch and we'll tell you how you can receive a special paper news update.



There's also info on Leeds actions and events so you can choose how you want to get involved in campaigning over the next three months. Basically, no matter what you're after, there's something for every campaigner on [www.leedscopnet.info](http://www.leedscopnet.info)!

Finally, this is as much a prototype for future work as it is a useful resource for the coming months. We'd love to get your ideas and feedback on the site; please send any queries, ideas and feedback to us at [leedscopnet@leedstidal.org](mailto:leedscopnet@leedstidal.org)

## What's on – 2009

### October

- 3–29 **Out of My Tree** Community arts exhibition of tree and environment related artwork and local initiatives. Leeds Central Library Community Arts Space. <http://tr.im/A9Ms>
- Tues 20 **Café Economique** 'Can a Copenhagen deal solve the climate change crisis, whilst we still have a growth based economy?' <http://tr.im/BilG>
- Wed 21 **Leeds Palestinian Solidarity Campaign** Launch meeting with Linda Clair, Chair of Manchester PSC branch. <http://tr.im/B2FO>
- Sat 24 **Engage + Change** City centre events and exhibitions on what we can do in Leeds to avoid climate change. <http://engageandchange.wordpress.com>
- Sat 24 **Interfaith Prayer Vigil** Taking place outside the Art Gallery on the International Day of Climate Action. <http://tr.im/B2EI>
- Sun 25 **Oxjam Leeds** Fundraising gigs all over the city <http://oxjam-leeds.org.uk>

### November

- Sun 1 **Capitalism, Climate Change and Copenhagen** – plenary discussions developing radical theoretical and practical engagement. <http://tr.im/B2HT>
- Fri 6 **Transition North Conference** See box, page 2, for details
- Tues 10 **Café Economique** 'What is a Steady State Economy, why do we need one, and what are the implications?' <http://tr.im/BimG>
- Sat 14 **Amnesty International Yorkshire Regional Conference** Find out more at <http://tr.im/BinB>
- Sat 21 **Leeds Summat** T4P and Partners present a social forum at Leeds University Union. <http://www.summat.org>

### December

- Sat 5 **The Wave, London** The UK's biggest ever climate demo. Ride The Wave Express down there! (see cover story)
- Sat 12 **Climate Emergency Copenhagen** Public meeting about radical measures needed to reduce the UK's carbon footprint. <http://tr.im/Biod>

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