



# TIDAL *news*

Trade Injustice and Debt Action Leeds

SUMMER 2006

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

## SCC Leeds: the ball gets rolling



TIDAL is supporting a recently formed Leeds **Stop Climate Chaos** group, bringing together campaigners from across the city, to mobilise support and publicise the crucial message about climate change and its threat to our planet.

Stop Climate Chaos is a new coalition formed to highlight the dangers of climate change on the poorest parts of the world. Organisations like WWF, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, CAFOD, WDM and Christian Aid have joined together to get that message across and to campaign for political action.

TIDAL has joined Stop Climate Chaos because we recognise the effect climate change has on the causes we campaign on. All the good work achieved by debt relief and changes in unfair trade rules will be fruitless unless we recognise and deal with this problem.

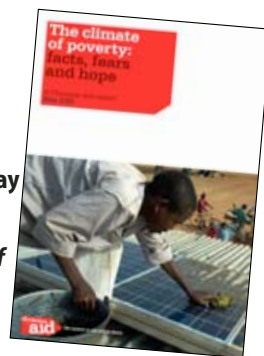
Already campaigners have been out on the streets collecting support. On Saturday 3 June, members of Leeds Stop Climate Chaos and a huge inflatable globe attracted the attention of shoppers in sunny Briggate.

Two hundred of them pledged to reduce their energy consumption as much as possible by doing simple things like buying energy-saving lightbulbs, and cycling and walking as opposed to using their cars, and sent a message to Tony Blair saying that they want the government to act to stop climate chaos. Local MPs Colin Burgon and Colin Challen added their support.

**'185 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone could die of disease directly attributable to climate change by the end of the century'**

One of the startling statistics from the May 2006 Christian Aid report, *The Climate of Poverty*.

Copies can be downloaded from [www.christian-aid.org.uk/indepth](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/indepth)



The first major event of the SCC Leeds group is at 7.30pm on Monday 25 September at Oxford Place Methodist Centre (next to Leeds Town Hall), when Lucy Pearce from the national SCC secretariat will be one of the speakers.

Then on Saturday 4 November we're planning to get lots of people to London for a huge rally – the first national public event in this campaign. Join supporters from environment, development, faith-based,

Story continued on page 3



Colin Burgon, MP for Elmet, and Colin Challen, MP serving Morley, Rothwell and Middleton, show their support for Leeds Stop Climate Chaos campaign.

*Still working to* **MAKE POVERTY HISTORY**

# All change...

2006 has been a funny year so far: after all the excitement of Make Poverty History in 2005, things went a little quiet as we all took stock of such a busy, memorable time and the events that led us to Edinburgh and back with such enthusiasm and momentum. On page 3, Mary Keynes updates us with news of the first post-MPH assembly, the Economic Justice Forum.

In April, TIDAL campaigns manager Annie Connolly and her co-worker Helen Dickason both stepped down because of other responsibilities. Annie was our first TIDAL worker and was just the right person to help us grow and develop. Hilary stepped in when Annie had to take time off, and brought complementary skills, in particular setting up our new database. We're enormously grateful for all they've brought to TIDAL and are glad that they're remaining on the scene.

In March we welcomed a new campaigns manager, Hilary Thorndike – she introduces herself opposite. She's already getting to know how we work and is looking to develop our work with volunteers. To start with, she's looking to update our website – volunteers welcome!

If you'd like to meet Hilary – and other TIDAL friends – please come along to our Ceilidh on 9 September – we promise you a great evening.

Lindsey Pearson  
TIDAL chair

## Introducing Hilary, our new campaigns manager



Hilary Thorndike is the new campaigns manager for TIDAL. With a background in Fair Trade, she is keen to develop TIDAL's capacity to involve more local people in the campaign for trade justice, debt and climate change.

Hilary says, 'I am delighted to be able to come at a time when TIDAL has so many opportunities to grow and develop in its campaigning and awareness-raising activities. Already I've had the chance to attend the Jubilee Debt Campaign's annual meeting [report on page 6].'

Welcome Hilary – we're looking forward to working with you.

## The long road to St Petersburg

TIDAL campaigners have a long history of getting to the G8 Summits on their bikes. This year Roger Harington, Labour Councillor for Gipton and Harehills, is on the road again – from Riga in Latvia to St Petersburg, where the world leaders are having their meeting in July.

Although global poverty isn't on the agenda, the Russian Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) coalition has agreed a name, slogan and campaign plan: 'For Justice – create a movement.'

Roger and his companions will be showing their support for the countries whose futures are at the mercy of the decisions made at the G8 meetings, and to show Russian GCAP that we're part of the

movement for justice. We look forward to hearing how they get on.



Cllr Roger Harington (centre). More G8 bike rides than you've had hot dinners.



### TIDAL

c/o Leeds Church Institute, 20 New Market Street,  
Leeds, LS1 6DG

Tel: 0113 391 7917 Fax: 0113 391 7939

info@leedstidal.org

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

# Living without MPH

Last year TIDAL flourished as part of a dynamic and centrally organised mass campaign. But 2006 saw the end of MakePovertyHistory. **Mary Keynes** writes about what's planned for the future.

TIDAL spearheaded the MPH campaign in Leeds, and made our contribution to the achievements of the Edinburgh G8. Over 5,000 campaigners travelled from Yorkshire to tell world leaders that we don't want to live in a world where someone dies every few seconds from preventable poverty.

Throughout 2005, periodic MPH assemblies were held in London where campaigners recharged their energies with others from all over the UK and abroad. With the start of 2006, MPH closed down, and on 2 June Hilary and I went to London for the first post-MPH assembly, the Economic Justice Forum. I found a mood of uncertainty and some frustration at having to seek out a new identity and focus after having marched together under the MPH banner. But on the positive side there was a wide choice of goals, campaigns and actions, coming from the numerous

organisations which had made up the MPH coalition.

So TIDAL has to adapt to this new framework. We have lost the central direction of MPH, but we are not on our own. We need to set our own course and decide ourselves where to put our main energies. We will have our own individual contribution to make, but we can also choose from a smorgasbord of creative ideas, actions, campaign materials and lobbying techniques emanating from the full range of coalition members.

This will mean that sometimes we will ask you to join in an Oxfam action, or send CAFOD cards, join in a Stop Climate Chaos mass demonstration, or write letters drafted by WDM. We are part of a richly varied coalition, and we share with them a single purpose which remains to make poverty history.



Photo: MakePovertyHistory

## Leeds Stop Climate Chaos – continued from page 1

women's, and other organisations and unions to send a powerful message to world leaders on the eve of the international talks on climate change in Nairobi. We want Prime Minister Blair to show leadership both at home and at the international talks.

Come and be part of an afternoon of entertainment, inspirational speakers and a message of solidarity to those around the world affected by climate change. This demonstration of broad support for tough action on climate change will be a fun, family-friendly day. All are welcome.

If you care about the devastation caused by climate change, join up for the fight. Here are a few ideas for getting involved...



**Come to the launch** of Leeds Stop Climate Chaos: 7.30pm Monday 25 September at Oxford Place Methodist Church. Speaker: Lucy Pearce, campaigns director for Stop Climate Chaos.

**Make a pledge** and send your message to Tony Blair at [www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org).

**Come to the national rally** on Saturday 4 November in London.

**Help organise local campaigning** – if you'd like to join the Leeds SCC group get in touch with [HKaitlinBoyer@wwf.org.uk](mailto:HKaitlinBoyer@wwf.org.uk)



Photo by Colin Sutton

More information about Leeds SCC can be found on the TIDAL website. To contribute your views use the TIDAL forums at [www.leadstidal.org](http://www.leadstidal.org)

# The people behind Surge revealed!

**TIDAL Surge is our outreach project – helping all people in Leeds to campaign together against poverty. The project goes from strength to strength, and we have now secured our second year of funding from the Department for International Development. Surge coordinator Jacinta Kent gives us an update, while Surge animator Furious Chitongo offers us some personal reflections.**

**Jacinta writes:**

*Nearly a year on from Edinburgh and the words on everyone's lips are 'what next?' If you want to know where best to place your efforts, want up-to-date information on what's happening in your area or just want to find out more about the work of TIDAL Surge – then give us a call on 0113 3917 917 or drop an email to [surge@leedstidal.org](mailto:surge@leedstidal.org)*

*Surge is currently looking to get more involved with local Women's Groups, and the Black and Minority Ethnic community. We're making plans for Black History Month in October, and we're always interested in finding out what other community organisations are getting up to – what do you know that's happening this summer?*

*If you belong to a group here in Leeds, we have a wide range of animators available for talks, interactive discussions and workshops.*

*We've now reached the point where we want to put some names to these mysterious animators of ours. Surge volunteer, Furious Chitongo, introduces you to some of the people behind the project. As you will see, they are as diverse in background as they are in experience. Call today to book them for your group, and get involved with the many other people in Leeds who want to join us in the fight for global justice.*

**Furious Chitongo writes:** 'What is the relationship between: a retired family doctor, a researcher, a business development consultant and a development studies student? They're all concerned about trade injustice, debt and development – and they're all TIDAL Surge animators, recruited, trained and sent out to raise awareness in the community. Here they explain what inspired them to join Surge.'



At 17 years, **David Adshead** spent a year in India. He became a medical doctor and teacher (now retired), and worked through Oxfam, visiting Kenya, Bangladesh and South Africa. 'Being an animator enables me to reach out and let people know that we have a big responsibility to end the suffering in the world', says David.



Researcher and Oxfam volunteer, **Pauline Neale**, says being an animator enables her 'to practice what I have been learning'. As a Surge volunteer, her interest lies in Fair Trade, though she talks on all poverty-related issues.

**We have a big responsibility to end the suffering in the world.**

**Beth Johnston**, a development studies student, joined Surge to be part of a solution. At the age of 15, Beth visited her brother in Zambia. He believed that to solve a problem, one had to identify its source. So does Beth – and she believes this is the philosophy behind Surge.



Business development consultant, **Na Ncube**, (above) heard about TIDAL Surge and realised that the project presented a perfect forum to share her years of 'anti-poverty' work experience with grassroots communities in Zimbabwe.

My own introduction to TIDAL was at the 2004 Hunger banquet at Leeds University. I had no doubt about joining Surge when Mary Keynes explained the project to me. You see, I worked for a national NGO called Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB) and for a regional one called Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG – now Practical Action Southern Africa) for nearly 10 years; but when I came to the UK for further studies I found myself with no outlet for what I was concerned with. For me, being an animator provides this outlet.

Tidal Surge has a total of ten active animators. Surge coordinator Jacinta Kent says more information about these and other animators not featured in this article will be available on the TIDAL website later this year.

So now you know who we are, get in touch and book us in for your group! We're ready and excited about meeting you and your cause.'

*Furious Chitongo, TIDAL Surge animator*

# Leeds Fair trade Schools Fiesta

As this newsletter goes to print on 28 June Leeds Fairtrade City is holding a Fair trade Schools Fiesta at the Civic Hall.

This event is for teachers and pupils in Leeds schools, to learn more about how to become a Fair trade School, and includes...

- Teaching resources and guidelines on how to become a Fair trade School
- Interactive workshops run by Fair trade award-winning schools
- Young Co-operatives workshop, on how they can help to get practical, fun, Fair trade citizenship action started.

To find out more about the Fair trade Schools project contact Hannah on 0113 3805661 or email [hannahd@leedsdec.org.uk](mailto:hannahd@leedsdec.org.uk)



## Fairtrade region next?

Leeds City Council has launched a regional Fairtrade project after successfully securing funding from the Regional Centre of Excellence. The project will involve work with councils in the Yorkshire and the Humber region to help them to achieve status as a Fairtrade authority. The aim is for all 22 councils in the region to achieve Fairtrade status and for Yorkshire and the Humber to become a Fairtrade region.

The project will promote Fairtrade principles to councils and other public bodies in the region and increase general awareness of the issues, encouraging new towns and cities to take up Fairtrade status.

More details from Sarah Wells on 0113 2474129 or email [sarah.wells@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.wells@leeds.gov.uk)

Susanna Mitchell of the New Economics Foundation at a recent TIDAL workshop.



## The big picture:

### reforming the global economy

That was the theme of a TIDAL workshop on 24 June led by Susanna Mitchell, Senior Researcher at Jubilee Research, based at the New Economics Foundation.

According to Susanna, *'If we wish to promote human development, avert economic crises, stabilise economic cycles and promote good creditor-debtor relations, bold steps must be taken to reconfigure the international financial architecture. If we shy away from this challenge, our efforts to solve sovereign debt crises will be short term palliatives only, for we will simply be treating the symptom and ignoring the disease.'*

One of the suggested components of this new architecture is an international Currency Transaction Tax (CTT) – an updated version of the Tobin Tax proposal that TIDAL was highlighting a couple of years ago. Considerable progress has been made towards this goal, and readers might like to check out the Stamp Out Poverty website for the latest news on this front.

[www.jubileeresearch.org](http://www.jubileeresearch.org) [www.neweconomics.org](http://www.neweconomics.org) [www.stampoutpoverty.org](http://www.stampoutpoverty.org)

## LATIN AMERICA

### Social movements fight back

Wednesday 12 July, 6pm at The Common Place Social Centre, 23-25 Wharfe Street

Hear Oscar Olivera, of the Coalition for the Defence of Water and Life in Cochabamba, and other speakers talk about their experiences of public services privatisation in Bolivia. Also films, Bolivian food, and benefit party.

Sponsored by the World Development Movement and Radical Activist Movement.

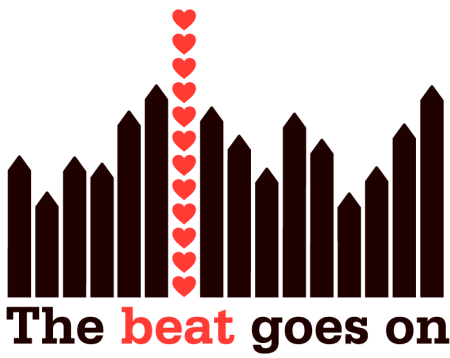
Details from [mary@keynes.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:mary@keynes.wanadoo.co.uk)

## Money!

Just to remind you that, apart from Surge, TIDAL is funded entirely by YOU!

Some of you have monthly standing orders – thanks – but we could do with some more. £5 a month from all our supporters would give us the capacity to do so much more, like sending out more regular information. Please see the website or contact the office for details of how to set up a standing order – or make a donation.

Thank you.



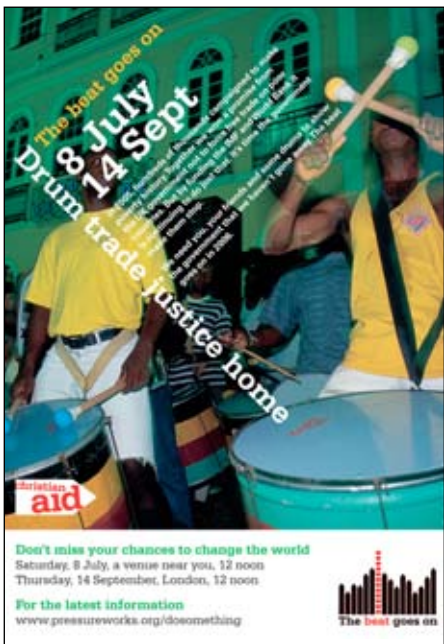
## Drum the trade justice message home at Kirkstall Festival on 8 July

Christian Aid are organising a unique drumming petition to keep up the pressure for trade justice. They're aiming to break the record for the number of drummers drumming at one time. People all over the country will be banging their drums – and pots and pans and buckets – including stars like Rhys Ifans (of Notting Hill fame) to beat out poverty.

Lindsey Pearson of Christian Aid says, 'We can't promise Rhys but we're looking for campaigners to come to the Traidcraft Stall at Kirkstall Festival on 8 July for 12 noon. We're going to drum a simple African rhythm for 4 minutes – and add our names to those who want to keep up the pressure for trade justice – to make the Government keep the promises they made last year.'

For more information contact Lindsey on 0113 2444764 or [lpearson@christian-aid.org](mailto:lpearson@christian-aid.org)

**ACTION**



## The Jubilee Debt Campaign annual conference 2006

# Debt and Power: towards an end of debt domination?

What are the links between debt and power? Is money the real issue when we talk about debt? Is debt the new colonialism? Such questions were on the table at Jubilee Debt Campaign's annual meeting last April in London.

Susan George, author, academic and activist; Lidy Nacpil, international co-ordinator of Jubilee South; and Caroline Pearce of the JDC's central office joined with Mark Plant of the International Monetary Fund, leading to some lively debate with an audience of around 200 JDC supporters

People were reminded of how the debt crisis arose, and of the effects on the developing world. But there was disagreement on how trade could help. The IMF vision centres on the prospect of more

*Debt is power: power in the wrong hands.*

exports from south to north under free market conditions. Others pointed out that trade liberalisation (free trade) favours the rich, and hasn't led to the economic growth promised by the IMF and other bodies.

This discussion shows the links between debt and trade – something TIDAL

campaigners are aware of through our action on both these issues. Yet, despite the obvious links between debt and trade, it is not the remit of the IMF to create policy on trade.



Lidy Nacpil spoke of how the use of debt to perpetuate the power and dominance of international finance over countries in the South has far more damaging effects than just monetary loss: debt renegotiation and

restructuring is an arena where western countries can use their influence to get outcomes which favour those countries (including ours).

All speakers called for democratic accountability, where all citizens in indebted countries are empowered to have a say in how cancelled debt money is spent, thus ensuring resources are well used.

Susan George articulated that control, rather than money, is the real issue, arguing that debt has effectively replaced colonialism. The system financially benefits the developed world and keeps power in the hands of the rich.

Workshops and group discussions addressed the relationship between debt and power, and also included transparency and accountability; the impact of debt on health and education; and a personal Zambian perspective of the socio-economic effects of debt.

So, are we working towards an end to debt domination? Activists on 8 April believed that we must revisit IMF and World Bank conditions and hold the G8 to account. We must support civil society campaigners in the South and continue to make the links between debt and trade justice. By forming alliances, we can work to make sure that debt relief cash is put to good use. The Jubilee Debt Campaign is relentless in its energy in working towards these aims.

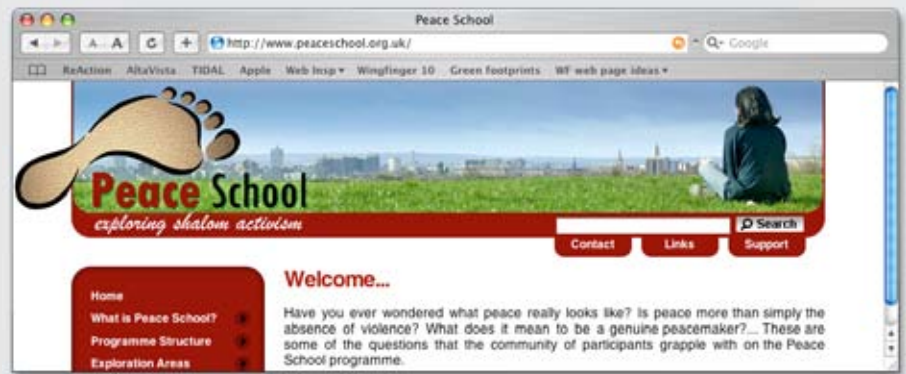
# P E A C E S C H O O L

Peace School is a new, national, year-long programme exploring what it means to be a peacemaker in every area of life; personal, local and global. The programme is designed for people to participate in alongside their everyday lives through a combination of residential and web-based activity. Peace School is a community of learning with all participants bringing their own experiences into the mix and hopefully taking away something from the experience of others.

The programme is structured to give participants the resources to be peace and

justice activists within their own contexts through a combination of discussion, visioning, reflection and teaching. Peace School is seeking to survey the world through a biblical Christian understanding of shalom (peace), while providing a welcoming environment for people of any background or faith. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit [www.peaceschool.org.uk](http://www.peaceschool.org.uk)

*Peace School is the brainchild of one of TIDAL's founding members, Jon Dorsett.*



*TIDAL Campaigns Manager, Hilary Thorndike, attended the conference and a fuller report from her will be posted on the website in due course.*

## 1 Year on from the Edinburgh rally

**Friday 30 June: 1–2pm**

**White T-shirts, white banners, MPH banners – please bring them with you. There will be a photo call for local media.**

**1:00 Meet at the Unitarian Chapel just off Park Square near Leeds City Train Station**

**1:15 Greg Mulholland and a representative of TIDAL will make short speeches outlining the progress made and what still needs to be done to fulfill the promises made at the G8 summit in Gleneagles last year (in the Unitarian Chapel)**

**1:40 Gather outside to form a human white band**

(Apologies that only those who receive the newsletter by email are likely to hear about this event in time.)

## GCAP month of mobilisation **ACTION**

Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), the world's largest ever anti-poverty movement, has called for a month of mobilisation to be launched on 16 Sept 2006 and for the white band to continue as our symbol of solidarity against poverty.

In TIDAL we're looking to do something in that month – but we're not quite sure yet of date and venue. We're hoping to get as many as possible of our campaigners together to show our solidarity with all those who are fighting against poverty, not just in this country but throughout the world.

The month will build to a climax on the 2006 global white band day: 17 October (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty), and we'll put information on the website about what's happening in the UK, and in Leeds.

Watch this space!

## Summer stalls

This summer TIDAL will be reaching out to the people of Leeds with our message about debt, trade and climate change and will be present at the Kirkstall Festival on 8 July, Hyde Park Unity Day on 5 Aug and Chapel Allerton Festival on 1–3 September, so come along, say hello and maybe buy a TIDAL T-shirt. We'd also like to have a presence at the Across The Tracks festival at Granary Wharfe in Leeds on 29–30 July.

We need volunteers to help out on these stalls – email Hilary on [info@leedstidal.org](mailto:info@leedstidal.org)

**ACTION**



## Leeds Met fair trade football match

*Fat Cats vs Fair Traders – an undeserved Fat Cat victory of 10-0 that happens when the goalposts are moved every few minutes. Find out more from [www.leedsmet.ac.uk/the\\_news/jun06/fairtrade\\_football.htm](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/the_news/jun06/fairtrade_football.htm)*

## Volunteer for TIDAL!

**ACTION**

TIDAL is looking for enthusiastic volunteers with an interest in the issues that we work with. A volunteer would work from home with regular contact with TIDAL staff, and would need access to the internet. Tasks include research, writing and getting involved in our events and actions. Interested? Please email us at [info@leedstidal.org](mailto:info@leedstidal.org) and tell us a bit about yourself. We look forward to hearing from you!

## TIDAL forum pages

You can now post your news on [www.leedstidal.org](http://www.leedstidal.org) by going to the TIDAL forums area.

The TIDAL forum is a great place to read and post news about local events on trade, debt and climate change. Start a debate! Log on and find out more...

## Don't miss the TIDAL Ceilidh!

Sat 9 September, Immaculate Heart Social Centre, 294 Harrogate Rd, Leeds

- Tom Havoc Band
- All proceeds to TIDAL

Further info from TIDAL (see p2)

Spread the word!



### What's on: 2006

#### June

- Wed 28 **Leeds Fair trade Schools Fiesta**
- Fri 30 **One Year On** – TIDAL Edinburgh G8 anniversary event near City Square

#### July

- Sat 8 **The beat goes on** – trade justice event at Kirkstall Festival – TIDAL stall
- Wed 12 **'LATIN AMERICA, Social movements fight back'** at the Leeds Commonplace
- 15–17 **G8 Summit**, St Petersburg
- 29–30 **Across the Tracks festival** – TIDAL stall

#### August

- Sat 5 **Hyde Park Unity Day** – TIDAL stall

#### September

- 1–3 **Chapel Allerton Festival** – TIDAL stall
- Sat 9 **TIDAL Ceilidh**
- Sat 16 **Start of GCAP Month of mobilisation**
- Mon 25 **Leeds Stop Climate Chaos**, launch event at Oxford Place, 7.30pm

#### October

- Tues 17 **GCAP Global White Band Day**

#### November

- Sat 4 **Stop Climate Chaos**, national rally in London