

## **Bulletin 10 April 2009**

### **SDV News and events**

#### **A job you might be interested in – Coordinator of SDV**

SDV is recruiting for a new coordinator. Details of the position are on the website. Please let anyone you think might be interested know about the job.

Closing date Friday 17 April

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id17.html>

#### **SDV Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 21 April, 6pm**

The next AGM will be held on the above date at the Boiler House at the Hidden Gardens. It's important that all SDV members attend.

A new committee will be elected at the AGM so think about putting yourself forward as a committee member.

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id15.htm>

### **Immigration, asylum and detention news**

#### **Migrant rule change was unfair on skilled workers**

Thousands of highly skilled migrants may receive compensation after the High Court ruled that changes to the rules under which they originally entered Britain were unfair.

It is the second time in a year that the retrospective changes to the programme for the "brightest and best" migrants, including doctors and academics, have been declared unfair and unlawful by the court.

The change meant that highly skilled migrants who had come to Britain with the prospect of becoming eligible to settle permanently after four years had to wait another year.

Mrs Justice Cox, sitting at the High Court, declared that the five-year rule imposed by the Home Office on people already in the country was unlawful. She said: "It would be unlawful for the [Home Secretary] to withhold indefinite leave to remain from all those members of the highly skilled migrant programme who were already on the scheme before April 3, 2006, by reference to a qualifying period of five years' continuous residence." An estimated 10,000 migrants are likely to be affected by the ruling, which the Home Office will not challenge.

<http://tinyurl.com/c9cl8b>

## **Other news and events**

### **Saturday 18th April Benefit Ceilidh For The Unity Centre**

Friends of the UNITY Centre have organised a Scottish Ceilidh in Edinburgh to raise money for the UNITY Centre

Music is going to be provided by Scottish Ceilidh band "Hud yer Wheesht" plus friends (See their website here: [www.myspace.com/hudyerwheesht](http://www.myspace.com/hudyerwheesht)) Along with MC Gandalf and some other bands. There'll be a fully licensed bar selling organic drinks, fruit juices and snacks and there'll be games and competitions as well.

The evening will start at 7pm and finish at midnight.

The Ceilidh is being held at the South Side Community Centre facing Nicolson Street (There's a map and directions here: <http://www.southside.edin.org/map.html>)

Tickets cost £10 / £6 (Concessions and £3 for children under 12 - Asylum seekers are free! Tickets available from [www.ceilidhculture.co.uk](http://www.ceilidhculture.co.uk) or phone the Ceilidh Culture box office on 0131 228 1155. Tickets will also be made available from Susie's Diner two weeks before the event.

Minibuses will leave George Square from 6pm (and will leave Edinburgh when the Ceilidh finishes.) You MUST book a seat on the minibuses if you want one. Phone / email or call into the Unity Centre for a minibus seat. A return ticket on the minibus will cost £5 but asylum seekers go free!

This is a ceilidh collective event with 100% of profits going to the *Unity Centre* Check out our friends at the Ceilidh collective [www.ceilidhcollective.org.uk](http://www.ceilidhcollective.org.uk) who are organising the night.

Come along and have some fun!

### **Young Scotland Programme: a free place for someone from SDV?**

If anyone who fits the criteria is interested in this, please let Kate know and she will apply for a free place

If you have a young person between the ages of 18 and 32 on your staff or working for your organisation as a volunteer, he or she may be interested in a free place on the forthcoming Young Scotland Programme organised by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland.

The summer course of the Young Scotland Programme will be held at the four-star North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer, arriving Tuesday 2 June, departing Saturday 6 June. All hotel expenses, including food and accommodation for four nights, will be met by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland through our Young Scotland Fund. Only travel to and from the venue is not included in this offer.

For information about the Young Scotland Programme, please click on the link below:

[http://www.youngprogramme.org/ysp\\_brochureJUNE09.pdf](http://www.youngprogramme.org/ysp_brochureJUNE09.pdf)

**Charity Bike Rides and Walks for the Charity of Your Choice (that would be SDV!)**

Just bike and Just Walk are events organised by Across the Divide who specialise in charity challenges. Find more details at:

<http://www.just-bike.co.uk/charity-bike-ride/>