

## **Bulletin 12 September 2008**

### **SDV News and events**

#### **Keep raising money for nothing for SDV through easyfundraising and easysearch**

We have raised nearly **£75** through easyfundraising so far this quarter. If five more of you sign up for a month's free trial with blockbuster by the end of September, we will reach over £100 – that's more than three visits paid for.

We can raise even more if you also sign up for a fortnight's free trial of Lovefilm (£8.00 for each sign up)

Go to the "easyfundsraising for SDV" page of the SDV website for a link to easyfundraising. You need to register first - but that is quick and easy! Then click on the "FREE funds" tab at the top of the easyfundraising page. There are also details of lots of other ways to get free funds.

Please also remember to go through this site if you are doing any online shopping. We can raise a lot of money from insurance companies if you buy contents, holiday and car insurance online through easyfundraising. **Direct Line will make a donation of £50 if you buy home insurance online through easyfundraising**

Remember also to use the site if you are booking travel tickets – the train line and a number of airlines make a donation if you navigate to their sites through easyfundraising

Other retailers include Ebay, Amazon, John Lewis, iTunes, Marks and Spencer. If you do any online shopping at all, do it through easyfundraising. All SDV members and supporters should register!

Please also remember easysearch – 10 searches a day can raise about £20 in a year.

Find details of both easyfundraising and easysearch on the SDV website.

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

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

#### **Immigrants' centre set up to keep children out of detention to shut**

The Home Office is abandoning a programme to accommodate children and their families outside immigration detention centres, it emerged last night.

Millbank, a former old people's home in Ashford, Kent, was converted into a home for asylum-seeker families as part of an "alternative to detention" government pilot last year. The project was aimed at keeping children in local schools while encouraging their families - who have exhausted their asylum appeals - to voluntarily return home.

However, the Guardian has learned that after almost a year in operation - during which it was supposed to accommodate up to 170 people a day - Millbank is empty.

The centre, which was expected to process 240 families over the year, accommodated only 13. Of those, just one family was persuaded to voluntarily return to their country of origin.

It is expected the complex of bedrooms, kitchen facilities and recreational areas will be shut down in the next month.

A UK Border Agency spokesman said: "We're currently working with children's charities to find alternatives to the detention of children." "We will evaluate the success of these pilots, and use the findings to inform our approach on this emotive subject."

Full story at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/sep/11/immigration.immigrationandpublicservice>  
[S](#)

### **Man dies following raid by police and immigration**

An investigation is underway as to how a man died following a raid by police and immigration officers at his home in Woodford Green, Essex on Tuesday 2nd September.

The 36-year-old unnamed man was found with head injuries below a block of flats after 'police officers and UK immigration officials attended a residential address in Lambourne Court, Woodford Green'. A post mortem has been held and the cause of death was given as head and chest injuries.

More information at:

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2008/september/ha000008.html>

### **Detainees 'exploited' for labour**

Detainees at an immigration removal centre in Oxfordshire are being "exploited" for cheap labour due to staffing cuts, a trade union claims. Oxford and District Trades Union said detainees at Campsfield House in Kidlington, are being paid £5-a-day for six hours of cleaning and kitchen work.

The Home Office said detainees were exempt from the minimum wage and none of them were forced to work.

Oxford and District Trades Union also expressed fears the workers do not receive adequate training or supervision. In a statement it said: "It is bad for the detainees, who are in a vulnerable position in detention and are being super-exploited. It may be bad for the standards of care and cleanliness in the centre. We are concerned that staffing levels have been cut. Jobs should be properly paid and be done by trained staff."

But a UK Border Agency spokesperson said: "All detained persons are provided with an opportunity and encouraged to participate in activities to meet their recreational and intellectual needs.

"Individuals are entitled to undertake paid activities at rates approved by the Secretary of State "This is voluntary and we are constantly looking for new opportunities to meet demand for this work."

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/oxfordshire/7607709.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/oxfordshire/7607709.stm)

## **Refugee Council briefing on the Draft (partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill 2008**

Click on the link below for a Refugee Council briefing on this Bill which is intended to simplify existing immigration law.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2008/immigrationandcitizenship.htm>

## **Labour MP's immigration plan brings claims of xenophobia**

Labour MP Frank Field has been accused of pandering to xenophobia by the leftwing thinktank the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), after he backed plans for all skilled immigrants from outside the EU to be sent home when their work visas expire after four years.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/sep/08/immigrationpolicy.immigration>

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4692865.ece>

## **Other news and events**

### **The Chronicles of Irania, The Arches, Thursday 18 September 2008- Sat 20 Sep 2008**

*"Welcome. I am happy for you being here. I am from Irania, a country of happy people. I will be your host for the evening talking about this history. I know you've heard lots of stories about Irania but what I am about to tell you is the truth so forget everything else. Let us see the magic of the land, let us touch the wonder of this delight. Let me take you. You will learn. Let us not be strange."*

This intimate one woman performance (directed by SDV chair, Catrin Evans) invites its audience on a journey into a land that is almost recognisable; into a land that you know but you do not know. Irania is a mystical place where truths, half-truths and un-truths circulate sometimes it's just easier to believe everything.

The Chronicles of Irania takes a playful and celebratory approach to exploring cultural misrepresentation. Through rich and provocative story-telling this performance explores the West's relationship with an almost mythical Eastern world. By blending fact and fiction into warped and twisted portrayals of Irania it examines the very real

## **scottishdetaineevisitors**

construction of the Middle-East and the West through screen flickers, world service crackles and the international pages of your newspaper. What impact does this complicated cultural folklore have upon a nation and its people?

Tickets have just gone on sale and the capacity is limited so please do contact the Arches to book your ticket as soon as possible.

Email: [info@thearches.co.uk](mailto:info@thearches.co.uk),

Box Office: 0141 565 1000 (Open 9am-8pm Mon-Sat / 12-6pm Sun)

[www.thearches.co.uk/ChroniclesofIrania](http://www.thearches.co.uk/ChroniclesofIrania)