

Bulletin 16 August 2008

SDV News and events

Rent DVDs for free for a month and get £6.25 for SDV

If you sign up for a month's free trial with Blockbuster through easyfundraising.org.uk, SDV will receive £6.25. You will also, obviously, receive dvds for free for a month! Just cancel before the end of your month's trial and you won't be charged a penny.

If 10 of us do this, SDV will receive £62.50 – that's more than two visits paid for! Go to the "make a donation" 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.

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id4.html>

Another fundraising opportunity – the First Monster Friday September 12 – Saturday September 13

The First Monster is a team duathlon round Loch Ness. Registration and pasta party is on Friday 12th in the evening and the duathlon takes place on Saturday 13th.

Volunteers are needed as stewards, for registration, etc and get a donation of £40 per shift and there is possibility of up to 3 shifts over the event (£120 per volunteer).

If anyone might be interested in travelling to Inverness for this event, let Kate know.

<http://www.easysearch.org.uk/>

Immigration, asylum and detention news

Good news: Zimbabweans in detention – a message from Haslar Visitors Group

"You will remember that seven Zimbabweans have been held in Haslar long after their criminal sentences ended and with no prospect of being deported. A few weeks ago we started a campaign to help them get released. Despite some tough talking, the Home Office quietly freed four. On Wednesday we went to court - with terrific help and support by BID and from you - and won three separate bail applications for the three who remained in Haslar. The Independent newspaper had a reporter and photographer present so we're hoping there will be a full report in shortly. I've been up with this since five this morning so forgive me if I close now."

Two of the Zimbabweans in question had been given bail addresses in Glasgow and Michael Wooley (the coordinator) has informed us that one of the things that helped to swing this result was an email from SDV saying we could help them settle and make links in Glasgow. Kate will be contacting them on Tuesday and if anyone would like to help to offer support, please let her know.

Also, now might be a good time for any Zimbabweans in Dungavel to go for bail or temporary admission.

Hunger strike at Campsfield House

Detainees at an immigration removal centre are beginning their second week on a hunger strike. About 30 people are refusing food at Campsfield House, near Oxford. The strike is being led a group of Iraqi Kurds protesting at the threat of being deported back to Iraq, where they say their lives will be at risk. The UK Border Agency has said it is committed to its policy of removing people who have no legal basis to stay in Britain.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/oxfordshire/7564614.stm>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/aug/15/immigration?gusrc=rss&feed=networkfront>

Self-Harm in Immigration Detention 2nd Quarter 2008 April/May/June

There were **61** incidents of 'Self-Harm requiring medical treatment' in April/May/June 2008 - an increase of 27% on previous quarter Jan/Feb/Mar 2008, **48** incidents.

Colnbrook IRC is of grave concern there were **24** incidents of serious Self-Harm - a 300% increase on the previous quarter's **8** incidents.

Yarl's Wood IRC also of grave concern. There were **10** incidents of serious self-Harm - a 250% increase on the previous quarter (**4** incidents). Numbers of individuals on 'Formal Self-Harm at Risk' were up **50%** on the previous quarter.

There were no incidents of serious self-harm at Dungavel in this period although 21 people have been classed have been on 'Formal Self-Harm at Risk' since the beginning of the year.

Full figures available at:

<http://www.ncadc.org.uk/resources/self-harm2008.html>

'Let them work' - asylum seekers and the right to work

The Refugee Council and the TUC are campaigning for the right of asylum seekers to work in the UK. It is a right that is being denied to one of the most vulnerable groups of people living in the UK today. Many journalists seeking asylum have fled persecution in their own countries - often because of their journalistic work. They come here looking for a place of safety and still want to work but aren't allowed to do so. The NUJ believes that asylum-seeking journalists should be allowed to report for media in their home countries and enhance quality journalism in the UK. To read more about the campaign and give your support click on the link below

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/gettinginvolved/campaign/righttowork/>

Other news and events

A job you might be interested in: Vacancy Haslar Visitors Group

Haslar Visitors Group (Portsmouth) is recruiting for a new full time coordinator.

37 hours a week (£23,000-£26,000)

The ideal candidate will be a proactive person with an awareness of the difficulties facing asylum seekers and refugees in the UK and excellent communication, writing and presentation skills.

Details at:

<http://www.haslarvisitors.org.uk/hvgvacancies.htm>

Another job you might be interested in: Jubilee Scotland Coordinator

Starting salary £24,000 plus benefits

Full time 35 hours per week

Jubilee Scotland campaigns for cancellation of unjust and unpayable poor country debts and is part of the global Jubilee movement for economic and social justice.

Applications are invited for the post of Coordinator. Based at our Edinburgh office, the post holder will provide leadership for the campaigns, and administrative support to the Campaign Coordinating Group of the Jubilee Scotland Coalition.

Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to Jubilee Scotland campaign objectives, and have experience within a voluntary or campaigning organisation. Closing date: Monday 8 September 2008

To request an application pack email:

mail@jubileescotland.org.uk

Unity Centre Mural Competition

On the side of the Unity Centre is a window that is boarded up and covered by a shutter that the centre didn't have the key for. Recently the centre was used to film part of an episode of Taggart and STV generously paid for the shutter lock to be fixed so they could open it and add signs to the window.

Unity have decided to have a competition to get a mural painted on the window to cover the signs and make the side of the centre much more attractive and eye-catching for people going past to sign at the Home Office.

They are offering a prize of £25 for the best design!

So if you're artistic and would like to enter we would like a mural design that reflects what the Unity Centre is trying to do as well as highlighting the principles of solidarity, internationalism and mutual aid. Remember the window is on the side of the street that people walk down on their way to the Home Office so we want something attractive and uplifting!

Send your design by email, or the post to the Unity Centre and they'll decide the best design and announce the winner before the end of September!

The mural is for an area measuring 160 cm across and is 145 cm high and you are welcome to come and see where we want the mural to go.

info@unitycentreglasgow.org. The UNITY Centre, 30 Ibrox Street, Glasgow, G51 1AQ

Pub Quiz

Organised by:



On **Friday 29th August**

Doors Open at **7:00 pm**

At: **O'Neills, 71 Albion Street**

**RAFFLE
SILENT AUCTION
FABULOUS PRIZES**

Teams can be formed on the night
or prior to the pub quiz

Entry fee: £4 per person, payable on the night

For more information, email: cindy_courtillier@yahoo.co.uk
To learn about the work of the WDM, visit www.wdm.org.uk