

Bulletin 22 August 2008

SDV News and events

Money for nothing for SDV through easyfundraising

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.

Go to the "easyfundsraising for SDV" page of the SDV website for a link to [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). You need to register first - but that is quick and easy! Then click on the "FREE funds" tab at the top of the [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) 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 around £25-£40 from insurance companies if you buy contents, holiday and car insurance online through [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) - all SDV members and supporters should register!

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

Ministers aim to block high court appeals by failed asylum seekers

Ministers have moved to stop failed asylum seekers appealing to the high court against deportation. A Home Office consultation paper published yesterday proposes "streamlining" the asylum appeals process by blocking access to high court judicial reviews for some failed asylum seekers. Their cases are to be heard by a tribunal instead.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/aug/22/immigrationpolicy.immigration>

UK Asylum Statistics: 2nd Quarter (April/May June) 2008

Yesterday the Home Office published today their asylum statistics for April/May June 2008

As at 28 June 2008:

- A total of 2,315 persons were detained. (90% of capacity)
- 2,240 were held at Immigration Service Removal Centres and 75 at Immigration Short Term Holding Facilities.
84 per cent of asylum detainees were male.
- 1,660 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers. This accounted for 72 per cent of all detainees.
- 55 people detained solely under Immigration Act powers were recorded as being less than 18 years old. 40 of these had been in detention for less than 29 days and 15 for between 29 days and two months.

Highest 10 Nationalities detained

Nigeria 300 (Asylum seekers 180)
China 195 (Asylum seekers 160)
Jamaica 140 (Asylum seekers 75)
Pakistan 120 (Asylum seekers 95)
Iraq 100 (Asylum seekers 90)
Afghanistan 95 (Asylum seekers 90)
Iran 90 (Asylum seekers 80)
Sri Lanka 85 (Asylum seekers 80)
Somalia 80 (Asylum seekers 50)
Ghana 70 (Asylum seekers 30)

Highest 10 Nationalities Removed (Refused sanctuary)

Afghanistan 300
Iraq 205
Turkey 195
China 185
Pakistan 175
Nigeria 150
India 135
Iran 135
Eritrea 95
Bangladesh 85

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

Report of announced inspection of Yarl's Wood

By Anne Owers, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, inspection 4 - 8 February 2008, report compiled May 2008, published Thursday 21st August 2008

- Escort vehicles with caged compartments were inappropriately used to transport children.
- the average length of children's detention had increased and this had a detrimental effect on children and their families.
- overall provision of health services was a concern

- Children staying for more than a few days received an unsatisfactory educational experience and there were few activities outside school hours.
- There was no evidence that children's individual needs were systematically taken into account when decisions to detain were made. Our interviews with detained children illustrated the effect of sudden arrest and detention on their wellbeing and reflected how scared they were while held in detention.
- The standard of care delivery was reasonable for basic primary care, but some serious gaps in provision, including poor access and communication, impacted negatively on detainee wellbeing. Services for children were under-developed.

The full report is available on the information page of the SDV website

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id3.html>

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