

Global Issues Forum

29 September 2008

1. Fairtrade

- a. **Schools conference:** Oct 7th, 9am – 12.15pm, Council House, College Green, places still available. Contact Jenny Foster for more information: jenny@bristolfairtradenetwork.org.uk, 0117-922-4916
- b. **World Food Day debate:** Sat 18th Oct, 2-3pm, Pierian Centre - 'The Good, the Bad and the Unpalatable' - the truth about local and global food choices. Part of their 'Meaning of Food' weekend with film and debate.
- c. **Festive Fayre** - alternative Xmas shopping at Create Centre, 5th-6th Dec: lots of ethical and fairly traded gifts, foods, fashion and household items.
- d. **"The Joy of Food"**: Thursday 9th to Sunday 12 October @ the Mall, a celebration of food. Volunteers needed to help run the stall in 3-hr shifts:

- i. 10.30am – 1.30pm

- ii. 1.30pm – 4.30pm

- iii. 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Will involve handing out freebies, engaging with the public and promoting fair-trade. And a great chance to do some early Christmas shopping before or after your shift! Contact Val Harding: Val.Harding@southglos.gov.uk

- e. **Traidcraft campaign: supermarkets and MPs.** The UK Competition Commission recently discovered evidence of poor practice by some retailers towards their suppliers. The Commission recommended the creation of a stronger Grocery Code of Practice and an independent Ombudsman to oversee problems where they do occur. Traidcraft are spearheading a postcard campaign targeting local

supermarkets and MPs, calling for support of the Commission's recommendations. So if you shop at a supermarket, or have an MP, or both, and have a desire to see justice for all, then this campaign is for you. For details visit www.traidcraft.org.uk/campaign

2. Christian Aid

- a. **Stand up and take action against poverty:** Friday Oct 17th
@Bristol Cathedral. Last year 43.7 million people in 127 countries stood up on the same day to take action against poverty. This year the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) is aiming to mobilise 1% of the world's population in this way. Contact Canon Tim Higgins (0117 904 6530 or city.canon@bristolcathedral.co.uk) for more info on the Bristol event
- b. **From Bethlehem to Bristol:** Tuesday 2nd December @ The Council House, College Green, Bristol. Nader Abu Amsa, director of YMCA Beit Sahour (Field of the Shepherds), tells the challenging story of modern day Bethlehem and his work as a Christian Aid partner. This is a multi-faith evening with friends from the Muslim and Jewish communities and includes Middle Eastern food and music. Contact Ruth Davey on 01454 415 923 or rdavey@christian-aid.org
- c. **Climate Change Campaign update:**
 - i. encourage MPs to support new clause 5 in the Climate Change Bill which would re-introduce mandatory reporting of companies' carbon emissions into the Bill
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/dosomething/emailmp.aspx>
 - ii. Countdown to Copenhagen campaign to achieve a fair deal for the world's poorest at the international climate change negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009
http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/dosomething/Copenhagen_pledge.aspx
- d. **Economic justice campaign update**
 - i. opposing unfair trade deals in regards to EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements being negotiated between the EU and African and Caribbean countries)
http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/dosomething/EPA_ema

[il_MEPs.aspx](#)

ii. an up-coming campaign against transnational corporations avoiding paying reasonable tax when they operate in developing countries

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/policy/tax.aspx>

3. Outreach opportunities to Kenya

Available with Open Arms International 2 week trips, that include medical clinics and children's ministry in some of the slums of Eldoret and prison ministry in Eldoret men's and women's prisons. Cost is approx £1200

Dates: 8 March – 27 March

28 June – 11 July

26 July – 10 August

For more information: Helen Harrison Helen@openarms.org.uk
07966 034584

4. For-Ethiopia update

- a. Achievements in 2008: library built for local secondary school, water supply provided during drought for many areas of the community, health services provided in areas of great need. Recognised by local authorities as NGO of very high reputation and excellent work. www.for-ethiopia.com
- b. Prayer request: there is a need for paid staff in Ethiopia to oversee the work of For-Ethiopia, pray for provision of funding and personnel
- c. Upcoming fundraising event: **'Table Talk' an evening with Coleridge**, Saturday Oct 18th, St Mary Redcliffe church, 7.30pm.

Compiled and performed by Dennis Harkness in St Mary Redcliffe Church where Coleridge was married in 1795, this production portrays an imagined evening towards the end of the poet's life. It focuses on his humanity and the preoccupations which coloured his personal journey - the history of his opium addiction; his relationship with women; his poetry; his friendships and promises to be an entertaining evening!

Tickets are £12.50 (£10 concessions) available from Dr Sue Thomas - Tel.

0117 973 3812 or email event@for-ethiopia.com

5. AOB:

a. 2 books to read:

i. **The Transition Handbook, by Rob Hopkins.** A good insight and background to the model of transition towns that are springing up in various places in response to the concern about the dwindling oil reserves.

ii. **Shock Doctrine, by Naomi Klein.** All about the truth behind the practices of transnational corporations in the global economy, and their influence and effect on developing countries, and the lives of people within those countries. Recommended reading for anyone with an interest or concern about the causes of poverty around the world

b. **Prayer request:** the first ever Alpha course has just started in Somalia. Pray for all those involved in the course, both leaders and participants.

Web site: <http://www.bcan.org.uk>

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