

SEG Newsletter - Spring 2015

Once again we have had a busy few months so I hope by summarising and updating everyone it will be both informative and useful. If you missed any of these opportunities via the minutes then here is another chance to get involved if you have some spare time.

Working with SCT

We enjoyed lots of valuable support and encouragement from SCT throughout 2014 so it is great to see this continue and develop in 2015. I was invited to the SCT economic sub group in early January and then to a full SCT presentation a few days later. Many thanks to Elspeth and Steve for sustaining our excellent links with SCT and, of course to Barbara for the work on their side. One outcome from this has been the.....

Swindon Living Wage Survey – Part Two

This is now well underway with over 120 responses so far. The survey can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7ZT9FSC>

Explanation and further details can be found on our web site but ***every SEG member living in Swindon plus any friends and family of working age are all urged to complete it. Let's try to get this up to 1000 responses by the closing date of Mid-March.***

Letter to Parliamentary Candidates

All of the candidates that have declared now have an SEG member assigned to them and letters have started to go out. Many thanks to the ten members who agreed to do this. We still need people who are willing to send a letter to ***any independents*** who declare either North or South.

Please share any responses with me so that I can pass this on to the membership. We can look at a collective response from SEG at our meeting in April.

SEG Leaflet 2015

The updated leaflet has now been printed. Many thanks to Susana at Nova for coming up with the most competitive quote. It would be useful to get every SEG member to take a few copies and distribute as and when required to publicise our work. I will have spare copies with me when I attend the three events listed below*so you could call in, however briefly to collect some from me.

SEG Web Site

After a few false starts we launched our digital presence just before Christmas. This has now developed, following some positive evaluation(s) from local experts, with hyperlinks, pdf versions of documents and photographs. VAS and Involve Swindon were both very helpful during this process.

Please check out the latest version and **give me some feedback** on any aspect. Also can you send me any **photographs** that you feel would be relevant for the site?

www.swindonequality.btck.co.uk

Reading Equality Group

Following the Reading group launch in January, Salim and I have exchanged many mails. It looks as if we (SEG) may get a second opportunity to speak in Reading, this time at the Reading Equalities Alliance Conference.

New College*

Following Paul's suggestion that we could be reaching out to a younger generation, the New College Diversity Week takes place March 2nd to 6th. We have agreed to staff a stand on Thursday March 5th from 11.30 – 2.00 p.m. **Please come along and help out if you can**. Many thanks to Trudy for setting this up.

International Women's Day*

This takes place on Saturday March 7th at the central Library. We will have a stand from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. if we can staff it so **volunteers please**. I am due to give a talk at 12.00 followed by a panel discussion. Many thanks to Karyse and Frances for liaising over this opportunity.

Duncan Exley Talk*

The big Spring public event that we planned is almost here. Thursday March 12th from 7.00 p.m. (doors open and refreshments from 6.30). We have a flyer – **please collect and distribute copies of this to anyone and anywhere you can**. We also have a longer digital version available. On the day (evening) we will need **as much help as possible please in setting up and running the event**. It would also be valuable if someone is able to **take photographs** during the event so that we can post them on to our web site later.

Campaign Pack

After a busy March things settle down a little for us in April so perhaps we can turn our attention to other aspects of the election and there are plenty of ideas in this pack supplied by TET. **See mail from me sent on January 22nd**.

Tax Dodging Bill

Has everyone signed this request? Please pass it on to all your contacts.

<http://taxdodgingbill.org.uk/the-bill/>

TET Local Groups Day

This will be taking place in London on **Saturday July 11th** this year. Steve went in 2014, Helen in 2013, I went in 2012 and Baghi visited earlier in the same year. It would be great to get ***someone else to represent us in 2015 – is anyone interested/available to go?***

Please get in touch with me if you can help out with ***any*** of the items mentioned here and, as usual, let me know if I have missed anything/anyone out from this newsletter. Please also pass this newsletter on to any contacts you have via other groups wherever you think it will be read.

Our current mail (and this newsletter) now goes out to 32 people and it is very encouraging to have so much support.

Tom