

Bridges Newsletter

Making Global Connections in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin



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Bridges promotes knowledge and learning for a fairer world in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Please read on to find out more about our work and how you can get involved.

Contents

1. [Opportunities ... get involved in Bridges' activities](#)
2. [Come along to... local events](#)
3. [Shropshire's been busy... update on Bridges activities](#)
4. [Going global ... events and opportunities with a global connection](#)

1. Opportunities... get involved in Bridges' activities

Are we Equal?

All around the world men and women are treated differently because of their gender and this difference most often leaves women at a disadvantage.

- Women perform 66% of the world's work and produce 50% of the food, but earn 10% of the income and own 1% of the property.
- Women hold just 19% of parliamentary seats, worldwide.
- In the UK, 30,000 women lose their jobs each year because of pregnancy related discrimination and 96% of executive directors of the UK's top 100 companies are men.

We don't think it's fair that gender can make such a big difference to the chances we have in life, so we're going to spend some time focusing on this issue in our work in schools and communities. If gender equality is an issue you care about then get in touch to find out how to get involved.

Get started by signing this petition to support women's rights in Afghanistan:

www.womankind.org.uk/policy-and-resources/dont-silence-afghan-women/sign-our-petition/

And, find out more about gender equality issues at www.weareequals.org.

Heroes and Heroines – carrying the torch for a fairer world

We've just launched two schools packs with resources around equality and the Olympics – free to download here: www.bridgesglobal.org.uk/resources_to_download_schools.html

Fair Festivities

I admit it's a little bit early to start talking about Christmas but this year Bridges is bringing you eight weeks of tips and tricks to help make your Christmas a little fairer, more ethical and sustainable. Check our blog every Monday for our tip of the week and leave a comment to let us know what you think. bridgesmgc.wordpress.com

Shrewsbury Fairtrade Shop

The Fairtrade Shop sells an excellent selection of fairly traded products including food, gifts, homewares and clothing. You can also get a sale or return box of Fairtrade items to sell at your school, place of worship, community group or local event. To guarantee a range of goodies, and to help the volunteers who run this valuable scheme, please get your order in early for Christmas! Contact – Shrewsbury Fairtrade Shop, 8 St John's Hill, Shrewsbury Tel: 01743 352048.

2. Come along to... local events

Reading around the World – Bishop's Castle Library

Come along to Bishop's Castle Library in November and find a book to take you on a journey. Our Reading around the World exhibition will be featuring novels by the best authors from different countries around the world.

A Celebration of What is Caring? – Artwork Display

Come along to Theatre Severn to see a unique piece of artwork created by young carers in Shrewsbury. Working with the British Red Cross Young Carers project Bridges supported the group to explore personal and global perspectives on caring. The young people then all contributed to a spectacular piece of artwork sharing what caring means to them with the support of Community Artist, Lesley McKnight. The artwork will be on display in Theatre Severn in November and December.

Fairtrade Market in a Fairtrade Town

A special Christmas Fairtrade Market will be in the Market Hall, Shrewsbury on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th November. A selection of stalls will be in the corner by the Bird's Nest café including silver jewellery from Thailand, Kenyan soapstone carvings and many fairly traded crafts and gifts from local shops. This is all part of celebrating that Shrewsbury is now a Fairtrade Town! A huge thank you and congratulations to Ken and Meriel Chippindale who have worked incredibly hard, along with other steering group members, to make this happen.

3. Shropshire's been busy... update on Bridges activities

Young People Prepare for Mini UN Summit

Otherwise Engaged, a small home-school group, that meet in South Shropshire have been working with Bridges to learn about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are a set of eight goals for a fairer world, created by the United Nations (UN) in 2000 and to be achieved by 2015. After learning about these goals, including issues such as ensuring we all have access to clean water and keeping mums and babies healthy, the group is about to take part in their very own mini-UN Summit to debate the issues and propose their own ideas and solutions. If you have a group who'd like to take part in similar activities then please get in touch with Bridges.

Lalage Bown becomes Bridges' Patron

Bridges is very excited to announce that Lalage Bown has become our patron. Lalage is Emeritus Professor of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Glasgow and has significant expertise and experience in working in international development, especially gender issues. Now settled in Shropshire, she previously spent many years living and working in Africa, particularly Nigeria. Find out more about Lalage's motivation for supporting our work in this short film: <http://vimeo.com/30023857>

4. Going global... events and opportunities with a global connection

- World Toilet Day – 19th November - www.wateraid.org/WorldToiletDay
Around the world, 2.6 billion people do not have somewhere safe or clean to go to the toilet. Take part in campaigns and activities to help change this situation.
- World Aids Day – 1st December - www.worldaidsday.org or www.aidsalliance.org
HIV and AIDS affects families all around the world. Join the campaign to support those infected and affected to get the treatment they need to live.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 3rd December - www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1561
Support this day to recognise that a quarter of the world's population is affected by disability.
- International Volunteers Day – 5th December - www.worldvolunteerweb.org/intl-vol-day.html
Celebrate the contributions volunteers make to communities in the UK and around the world.
- International Human Rights Day – 10th December - www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/supportourwork/fundraise_for_us/refutea
Support the Refugee Council's work to protect the human rights of refugees by holding a RefuTEA.
Support Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign www.amnesty.org.uk/wfr
- Poverty and Homelessness Action Week – 28th January to 5th February 2012 - www.actionweek.org.uk
Support this week of action to break the barriers that trap people in poverty and homelessness.

Please get in touch with Bridges for ideas and support on getting involved in these days and events.

About the e-bulletin

Bridges promotes knowledge and learning for a fairer world. The e-bulletin is to help keep you informed of global issues, campaigns and action in, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and the surrounding areas. We would like to share what's happening with you, but if you would like to unsubscribe please email admin@bridgesglobal.org.uk with Unsubscribe in the subject line of your message.

Contribute to the e-bulletin

If you'd like to promote your events or activities in this e-bulletin we would love to hear from you. Just email a link or a short article, with any permitted photos you'd also like to share and we will add this to our next e-bulletin as appropriate.

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Bridges promotes knowledge and learning in Shropshire for a fairer world.
Our vision is a fairer world where all people are respected, learn together and are able to take action.

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