



Development Education Centre

# Bridges Bulletin Summer 2008

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## Our aim

**Bridges is a Shropshire-based education organisation that aims to support an understanding of the diverse world and communities in which we live and the issues that affect us all. We work to empower people, individually and collectively, to take a full and active role as responsible global citizens.**

## Global Food Chain

"What type of crops do you grow on your farm?" one Year 9 pupil asked her fellow class mate from the Stoke on Tern primary school as part of the web-based Global Food Chain project.

Since the website has been launched last year pupils from Stoke on Tern, Lady Grove and Hodnet School have been able to explore and ask a number of questions about food related topics, such as what makes a healthy diet? Should you compost food waste and why buy fair trade food?

The project involves pupils documenting their food investigations via video diaries and uploading them on the website for discussion. The website enabled pupils from each participating school to view the video entries, add comments and share their learning.

As part of the Global Food Chain project, participating schools will undertake a school-based action such as setting up an allotment or running a multi-cultural food festival with support from parents and local community organisations.

To find out more about the Global Food Chain project contact Mana at [Manjit@shropshirebridges.org.uk](mailto:Manjit@shropshirebridges.org.uk). Or log onto [www.globalfoodchain.co.uk](http://www.globalfoodchain.co.uk).



I'm Amina, aged 12, from Darfur  
Using role play to understand the Darfur Crisis

Pupils aged 13 – 15 from six schools have been learning about the Darfur crisis in sessions at Telford Learning Innovation Centre. The sessions used role play to help pupils empathise with Sudanese villagers caught up in the crisis, and are part of project using experiential education methodologies.

The Darfur crisis began in 2003 and has resulted in the displacement of over 4 million people. Whilst many people argue it is the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet, an awareness of the situation remains low and can be perceived as distant and unconnected to our lives in the UK. In the activities, pupils can take on the role of the UN Security Council, charged with deciding whether or not to send 70,000 peacekeepers in to the region, or an aid agency trying to improve the situation in refugee camps. Pupils are asked to consider what they might be able to do to improve the situation or persuade those in power to take action.

If you are interested in learning or teaching more about the crisis in Darfur, or wish to access the materials developed in this session, please contact Davina by telephone or email: [Davina@shropshirebridges.org.uk](mailto:Davina@shropshirebridges.org.uk).

## Activ8ing

The eight schools in the G8 challenge project have had a very busy Spring Term raising awareness of fair-trade, malaria and carbon emissions, as well as raising money to help buy lots of mosquito nets.

Weston Lullingfields held a series of completely Fairtrade lunches and local residents have been hearing more about the issues via three of the schools featured on Shropshire Radio.



Fairtrade lunch at Weston Lullingfields.

## Bridges News

Our thanks to Martin Beardwell who retired as Chair of our Board of Trustees in February. Kevin Lawrence, who led in the foundation of Bridges five years ago, has taken the position of chair.

Welcome to Melanie Downes who joined as an Administrator in February. She joins Davina, Sylvia and Mana at our Wellington offices.

## Views from Shropshire

Sufu Amir was interviewed as part of the 'Views from Shropshire' project collecting the oral histories of thirty people who have moved to Shropshire from overseas. Mr Amir moved to the UK from Bangladesh in 1964 and is now a restaurateur in Oswestry, Shropshire. This is an extract from his oral history:

**"The main idea for me to be here, and many like me... was to improve the standard of living that we had back home...by going out of the country of origin you were searching for a better life....the main reason was to support the family, earn a few pounds and send it back home to support the family that you have left behind. So if I was earning I was feeding ten mouths back home that were waiting for me or looking at my hand to support them. Again things have changed now, a lot of people come here now for education and to go further in life and ones that are born and brought up here don't have the same feeling as we used to because of our ties that we had back at home. The ones that are born here seem to find that this is home and maybe that's right for them."**

Extracts from all the interviews, along with an accompanying education pack, will be available at the end of the year.

## Pictures Showing a Thousand Worlds

How would you show someone from another country what life in Shropshire is like? In April Bridges is beginning a photography project working with Shropshire people and groups with global connections. We will be handing over cameras to the people on the ground – both in Shropshire and around the world. The result will be a unique photography exhibition around some of the major development challenges of our time. If you are interested in finding out more or taking part please contact Davina at Bridges.

## New Resource from Bridges 'The World here in Shropshire- Making Global Issues Relevant in a Rural Area'

A four part booklet on Global Citizenship produced by Bridges, with local examples of good practice and photocopyable, easy to use classroom materials for primary school.

Downloadable from the Bridges' website from end of April. Includes sections on Ethnic minorities, World News, Recycling and Fairtrade.





## Events

### Making the World of Difference – Conference for Primary School Council Members and their Teachers

27th June (10am – 2pm) at Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

Workshops and presentations run by pupils will help motivate school councils to think beyond the school yard and take action on global issues. £6 per pupil. Contact [sylvia@shropshirebridges.org.uk](mailto:sylvia@shropshirebridges.org.uk).

# Global Planner – Summer 2008

The World in Shropshire – School pupils are invited to share their ideas about changing the world in a day of pupil led activities on the 27th June – see reverse for details		Picturing Our World Shropshire groups with global links are invited to share their views on the world in a new participatory photography project		Join the Global Food Chain! Schools are invited to contribute their online food video diaries - visit our website for details		'Understanding Darfur –New education materials using empathy to explore the crisis in Darfur, see reverse for details'			
May		June		July		August			
<b>M</b>	Walk in the Woods Week			1 International Day of co-operatives					
<b>T</b>				2					
<b>W</b>				3					
<b>T</b>	1 Walk in the Woods Week	World Environment Day		4		1 World Breastfeeding Week			
<b>F</b>	2 Yom HaSho'ah – Jewish Holocaust Day			5 Twins/Triplets & More Week					
<b>S</b>	3 Clean Air Month			6 National Transplant Week		2			
<b>S</b>	4 Compost Awareness Week	1 Volunteers Week		7		3			
<b>M</b>	5	2 Italy National Day		8		4			
<b>T</b>	6 National Teachers Week	3		9		5			
<b>W</b>	7	4 Tonga National Day		10		6 Play Day 2008			
<b>Th</b>	8 World Red Cross/Crescent Day	5 World Environment Day		11 World Population Day		7 Jamaica National Day			
<b>F</b>	9	6 Togs for Dogs Day		12 National Archaeology Day		8			
<b>S</b>	10 World Lupus Day	7		13		9 Singapore National Day			
<b>S</b>	11 Christian Aid Week	8 Diabetes Awareness Week		14		10			
<b>M</b>	12 World Fair Trade Day	9 Careers Week		15		11			
<b>T</b>	13 Children's Book Week	10		16		12 International Youth Day			
<b>W</b>	14 Israel National Day	11		17 Iraq National Day		13 International Left Hand Day			
<b>Th</b>	15 International Day of Families	12		18 Guru Purnima – Hindu		14			
<b>F</b>	16	13		19		15 Republic of Congo National Day			
<b>S</b>	17	14 World Blood Donor Day		20 Colombia National Day		16			
<b>S</b>	18 National Smile Month	15 Bug Busting Day		21 Guam National Day		17 World Water Week			
<b>M</b>	19 Walk to School Week	16 Day of African Child		22		18			
<b>T</b>	20 East Timor National Day	17 World Day to Combat Drought		23 Egypt National Day		19 Afghanistan National Day			
<b>W</b>	21	18		24 24/7 Work of the Samaritans		20			
<b>Th</b>	22 International Day for Biological Diversity	19		25 St James the Great – Christianity		21			
<b>F</b>	23 Herbal Medicine Week	20 World Refugee Day		26 Liberia National Day		22			
<b>S</b>	24	21		27		23 International Day Abolition of the Slave Trade			
<b>S</b>	25 Week of Solidarity Non-Governing Territories	22		28 Peru National Day		24 Ukraine National Day			
<b>M</b>	26	23 International Widows Day		29		25 Uruguay National Day			
<b>T</b>	27	24 Deaf/Blind Awareness Week		30		26			
<b>W</b>	28 Ethiopia National Day	25 Mozambique National Day		31		27			
<b>Th</b>	29 International Day of Peace Keepers	26 International Day in support of victims of torture		 World Population Day		28			
<b>F</b>	30	27				29			
<b>S</b>	31 World No Tobacco Week	28				30 Kyrgyzstan National Day			
<b>S</b>		29				31 Trinidad & Tobago National Day			
<b>Christian Aid Week</b> 11 – 17 May 2008 Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty.		<b>World Environment Day</b> 5 June 2008 Commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.		<b>Day of the African Child</b> 16 June 2008 Honouring the memory of the hundreds of young boys and girls who were shot down and killed in the Soweto riots, as well as the courageous marchers who followed		<b>World Population Day</b> 11 July 2008 The World Population Day was inaugurated in 1988 by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to mark July 11, 1987, when the world's population hit five billion.		<b>World Water Week</b> 17 August 2008 Experts from 100 countries are assembled this week in a global effort to improve human; welfare and the planet's health.	