

Cleveland GJN Meeting 04.05.17. 9 people present.

Groups Mailing. Unfortunately this has been delayed so that election material can be added so we do not have all of the materials to discuss fully. A verbal summary was given of the main issues.

Recent Actions for Group.

- 1, Two members were invited to take part in the Mayoral debate but were not invited to ask questions.
2. A survey has been commissioned by GJN to examine the effectiveness of the New Alliance Campaign. National asked us to take part in this as we took part in the campaign.
3. Several group members went to see the Indian play which recently toured our area. It was an excellent play but it was unfortunately badly attended.
4. Justice First organised an event at Mima which a couple of our members attended.

Campaigns

Brexit GJN are currently working to strengthen ties with European allies, particularly ATTAC. There will be a 3 day summer uni in Toulouse in August.

National Gathering in Bristol on 10 June.

Trade Justice. ‘Dangerous deals being done in the dark’. This is the new slogan drawing attention to the next phase of the trade campaign. The fear is that in the run up to Brexit new trade deals will be agreed without any oversight from parliament or accountability to ordinary people. The campaign will focus on more transparency, stopping toxic deals and calling for alternative principles for trade. We will need to raise awareness with MP’s, previously we focussed on MEP’s. In July there will be a petition, postcards and a leaflet for us to use. There is also a briefing on the proposed US - UK trade deal.

Election National have had to quickly adjust their campaigning to take account of the election. They have issued an election postcard with suggested questions for members to keep at hand for when campaigners call. The mailing also gives advice about our stance during an election. GJN does not support or endorse any one party so we must bear this in mind. GJN suggests that our most relevant campaigns during the election are: migration, trade and Brexit. The result of the election will have a huge effect on our future campaigns and on how we relate to parliament.

Stop Trump We are part of the coalition which is opposed to Trump’s state visit to the UK. There are leaflets which are designed to be given out to the general public.

Future Campaigns A local groups consultation is being sent out for us to give our views on the most important issues. Some of the possibilities are: Access to pharmaceuticals, Dangerous trade deals or Migration - change the story. There are also some smaller campaigns. The deadline for this to be fed back is 18 June. Our next meeting will be on 15 June so we will just have time to send our views.

Local Actions

Election postcards Agreed to ask National for some additional copies of the suggested questions for us to use locally.

Action Barbara to order the cards.

Community Day at Mima We have been invited to take part in one of these days which take place on Thursdays from 12 to 2pm. We will use some of the Monsanto materials.

Farmers Market Stall We will focus on the Rights of Small Scale producers. We have action cards for people to sign and also some booklets but we will need a poster and some cards for a game. We will share with the Allotment Association. We were planning to do the stall in May but this was not possible so we will try for June instead. There is a shortage of members available to help.

Action Barbara and Jacky to prepare cards and Andy to produce a poster.

Website It was suggested that we should put more material on the website. Caryn is responsible for doing this but we all need to think about material that can be added.

Next Meeting Thursday 15 June

Summer Walk Thursday 20 July around Dalehouse. Barbara and Andy to arrange.