



News From SMK

SMK would like to thank everyone who applied for an award this year. This year's applicants were of an incredibly high standard. The winners and finalists will be announced in September.

SMK will be running its "Influencing Change" course in partnership with City Parochial Foundation. Last year's course received excellent feedback:

as perfectly pitched. The way the learning took us through the variants of a campaign strategy worked really well with the break-out sessions and insights from experts. "

The course is four days long, and will run over a period of four months.

- Tuesday 29th September 2009
- Thursday 29th October 2009
- Friday 20th November 2009
- Tuesday 15th December 2009

Each day focuses on different aspects of campaigning including strategy, influencing government, policy and evaluation. To register your interest in attending this London based course please email ruby.coote@smk.org.uk. Places are limited.

**SHEILA
MCKECHNIE
FOUNDATION**

The Latest News in Campaigning...



The Lewes Road
Community Garden Project

Local campaigning spotlight: Brighton

Brighton based newspaper The Argus has launched a campaign to try and restore the quality of the train service from Brighton to London. This has been causing problems for commuters since a new timetable was introduced last year. [Read more.](#)

Another Brighton based campaign was recently launched by residents who are trying to stop a stretch of land from being built on. Community action group "Friends of London Road Old Railway Allotment (FLORA) argue that the land which was formerly used for local allotments is of significant importance to Brighton's cultural heritage and an important nature reserve. [Read more.](#)

A further community campaign is taking place in the London road area of Brighton; a derelict site for five years and an Esso garage before that has now been turned into a community garden by a group of Brighton residents. The site is now home to yoga classes, and communal gardening events, but has been under threat of closure. See how the garden develops and follow their campaign to keep the garden a local community space. [Click here for more.](#)

National...



Tamsin Omond, Alice and
Emily Booth appear in the
July edition of Vogue.

As mentioned in last month's e-bulletin, campaigning has become quite fashionable amongst today's celebrities, fashion designers and high street stores. This month's Vogue features an article on female environmental campaigners. Read about the women who created the film "The Age of Stupid" and the founders of the female-led climate movement "Climate Rush". Read pages 144-151 of July's Vogue for the full article.

SMK recently took part in The Cardiff East Transition Town "Creating Political Change workshop", which was held on the 18th July. This workshop was run for those interested in green issues and who were wanting to influence political change. If you want to know more about the Cardiff Transition project, [click here.](#)

The social networking site Facebook has recently been used recently by students who are protesting against the introduction of clip-on school ties as opposed to traditional ones. Read about this campaign [here.](#)

International...

SMK Trustee Carolyn Hayman recently visited The Democratic Republic of Congo as part of her work for Peace Direct. Have a look at an [article](#) she wrote describing her visit to DRC and her fears that if international aid is not spent in the right areas violence could break out again.

After the recent controversial election results in Iran, some members of the national football team chose to wear green wristbands as a gesture of support for the defeated party. Consequently, the footballers were forced to resign. [Read more.](#)

The State of Kansas, USA has endured a long standing struggle around abortion legislation. Currently, they are legal in this state but only a very few number of clinics offer them to clients. Abortion physician George Tiller was recently shot dead in a church. His family have since taken the decision to shut down his clinic which provided abortion services, permanently. [Read more.](#)

What we can learn from the Obama campaign

Nfp Synergy has published a report for charities about what can be learnt from the success of the Obama campaign. [Read it here.](#)



Nfp's report talks about the importance of a consistent message and using new media.

Upcoming Events...

[Unit4](#) has launched its Big Challenge competition for 2009. They are looking for passionate and enthusiastic people aged between 16-24 who are wanting to run community based projects. [See here](#) for more details about prize details and how to apply.

Photo credits: 1. Police at G20 demo/HKambo, 2. The Lewes Rd Community Garden Project, 3. Climate Rush Girls/Copyright Vogue, 4. Obama, Change We Can Believe In.

Many thanks from the Sheila McKechnie Foundation (SMK)

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