



# Solidarity in action

Emmaus Gloucestershire March 2010

## First Electronic Newsletter

This is the first electronic newsletter that EG has put together and we hope that you'll find it interesting. We need to spread the word about what we do, and why we do it, so please pass it on to friends, relatives and anyone else you can think of. Please encourage them to look at our Web site [www.emmausglos.org.uk](http://www.emmausglos.org.uk) as well, 'cause they can sign up to receive the newsletter direct from the site, as well as learn more about who and what we are. Right, that's enough of the intro, let's get on with the news!

## Trustees get stuck in

Many organisations have trustees who don't get involved with the nitty gritty work. EG is a lot luckier than that. Kate joined the companions to work in our recent green issues workshop, Clare has cooked with Jav at the night shelter, and Michael has just completed his driver training so that he can help out on the vans occasionally when he's free. Feedback is very positive about these efforts as it's a big contribution to the community and we all understand that it's not easy to find the time to contribute in such a practical way. Thanks guys!

## World Water Day

The 22<sup>nd</sup> of March has been and gone, but we managed to contribute to World Water Day by running a couple of stalls to raise money and awareness at Gloucestershire College. Doing this and keeping the shops and the collections and deliveries going wasn't easy, but we still managed to raise £180. This is an issue which we all feel is worth supporting; access to water is such a basic thing.

## Chris and Dave are back from Paris and its Au revoir to Seb.

A French exchange was organised to help us to learn something about the French community at Neuilly Plaisance, near Paris, and how they run their community and business. This went very well, with both Chris and Dave learning a lot about the way that the French community at Neuilly Plaisance do things, and Sebastien from France making a great contribution to EG. In fact Seb had such a good time he hopes to come and join us as soon as the Paris Salon is over, and as soon as he has passed his driving test. Hopefully we can teach him to drive on the right side of the road!



*Seb with his England scarf and rugby shirt surrounded by dodgy characters.*

## 1000 Teapots

With the Paris Salon looming on the horizon a group of students at Gloucestershire College have agreed to help us collect together 1000 Teapots for sale in France. For some reason the French think our teapots are fantastic and so they pay much better money there than we can get here. The students are asking each donor to write a short message to put in their teapot to make it an even more special purchase.

Proceeds from the Salon go to international solidarity, such as the Benin water project and the Bosnian Safe House project. Neil B made a fantastic appearance on Radio Gloucester pleading for donations and now hopes to continue a career in broadcasting. Sadly he is more likely to get involved in newspapers at the local chippy, but that's showbiz.....

### Sales and Marketing training

We've held a couple of training sessions to help us to improve the service we offer to our customers. Cheltenham, Nailsworth and Gloucester have all been involved and the enthusiasm and effort by everyone has been astounding. The result of all this is that changes are being made to the way that we present our merchandise and organise our shops and we hope that this will improve the shopping experience at Emmaus Gloucestershire. We all want to thank Kevin, from Kerching for his work and for helping us to improve what we do.



*This picture of people training may look boring, but then, you try and take an interesting picture of a training session.....*

### Green efforts

No sooner was he back from France (one stone lighter than when he went), than Chris threw himself into reducing our waste going to landfill. He and Barry sorted out a couple of sites that will take cardboard, bottles, hard plastics, and various other things, and then they organised a system for making sure that this stuff gets re-cycled and not tipped to landfill. This is great news indeed as it makes a real contribution to EG's efforts to make a real difference, not just in peoples' lives, but to the world we live in.

### All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

With Sebastien visiting from France we decided that a couple of cultural visits were in order. We started off with a trip to St Fagans, the Welsh National Folk Museum, swiftly followed by a trip to Big Pit Mining Museum. No need for an explanation about this as the picture tells the story.....



*Three plucky heroes about to descend to the very bowels of the earth....*

### Focus on.....the Cheltenham Shop



For those who don't know it our shop in Cheltenham is well worth a visit. It's run by a heady mix of Companions and Volunteers, with all of them fighting with each other to give good service to our customers. You can find a fantastic range of things there, from furniture to bric-a-brac, hair dryers to hats, and clothes to books. It is rumoured that all sorts of posh people come into the shop, so why not you? In a recent poll, Emmaus at Cheltenham was voted the most friendly and the best value of all charity shops in the town. \* Henrietta Street, next to the Brewery complex, has easy parking and the shop has an ever changing stock of wonderful goodies. Do come along!

\* Poll consisted of members of my family and a passing friendly dog.

*This newsletter will be available as a download from the Emmaus Gloucestershire website. <http://www.emmausglos.org.uk>*