



[oswestryequalitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:oswestryequalitygroup@gmail.com)

01691 680382

## **The Leveller 16**

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2014

This is a slightly shorter edition than normal, as August has been a very quiet month in terms of happenings.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Thursday September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **NHS Meeting**

The A and E department at either the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford is threatened with closure. The hospital itself will be run down at the same time. This will obviously have a serious impact on local health care.

Remember that it is more or less impossible to get to and from Telford by bus in one day.

There is a public meeting about this on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 for a 7.30 start. This will be held at Shrewsbury Baptist Church – Central, Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1QG. .

This from Friday's Star:

<http://www.shropshirestar.com/news/2014/09/05/single-shropshire-ae-wins-report-backing/>

**Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm**

#### **House meeting**

Time to think about this coming year and reflect on what worked (and what didn't) in the last.

So we'll be meeting here at 8 High Fawr Avenue, Oswestry, SY11 1TB

There is a tremendous amount of stuff going on at the moment. It's just never publicised.

**Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Shropshire Peoples Assembly against Austerity Rally**

This is being held in Shrewsbury Town Square from 11 am – 3 pm. Speakers have been asked to speak against all of the cuts.

**Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Debt**

Jackie Jeffrey, Manager Shropshire Citizens Advice has very kindly agreed to return to talk about debt.

A really good crowd would be appreciated.

This will be at 7.30 at Eastern Oswestry Community Centre. Coffee and cake as usual!

**Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30**

**‘Equality Groups – The Oswestry Model’**

Shropshire People’s Assembly against Austerity (SPAAA) has invited me to go over to Shrewsbury to talk about ‘Equality Groups – The Oswestry Model’.

This will be at The United Reform Church, Coleham Head, Shrewsbury, SY3 7BJ. This is just opposite Shrewsbury Abbey, with free parking there.

I would really appreciate as much support as possible. SPAAA think that we are a very special group – let’s go and show them!

**Oswestry Foodbank**

The Foodbank’s recent bag-packing at Morrisons in Oswestry raised £302.34.

It is really important that we continue to support this organisation.

**FRESH – Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire Equality Forum**



The purpose of the FRESH Equality Forum is to develop and support a network of statutory and voluntary agencies, local community groups, commercial organisations and individual activists to discuss and take action on equality, diversity and anti-discrimination issues across the county. The Forum supports the elimination of all forms of unfair treatment and discrimination, and supports making Shropshire a welcoming place for all.

We went over to their 3-monthly forum last week. The whole afternoon was spent with a presentation by SAND – Safe Aging – No Discrimination, with a subsequent follow-up discussion. This dealt with the problems faced by older gay and lesbian people when they have to go into Care. It was an interesting afternoon and gave us an insight into another kind of inequality.

**Energize**

I went over to meet Helen Freedman from Energize. She writes:

Energize, the County Sports Partnership shares a belief that opening up people’s horizons to the joy of sporting activity enables each and every person to **find something that makes their heart beat faster**. Therefore our challenge is to work with our local partners to make these opportunities available so that everybody can find something that appeals to them.

They are also supporting the Community Games here in Cae Glas in Oswestry on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 12pm – 4pm

This promises to be even bigger and better than last year’s games which drew in around 500 people. This family fun event is FREE for everyone to attend and take part in “have a go

sessions” and see the amazing activities that are on offer in Oswestry all year round for all ages and abilities. Everyone who takes part and enjoys one of the have a go activities will be able to learn how they can continue to do so after the games. It involves many local organisations and local schools. These include Derwen College and North Shropshire Special Olympics. In other words, there are equal opportunities for all.

### **Inequality across the country**

The Equality Trust has been looking at Inequality within and between UK regions. These are their key points.

- Rich-poor pay gap - London has the largest pay gap between the richest 1% and poorest 1%. The average pay of someone in the richest 1% is almost 15 times (14.8 times) that of someone in the poorest 1%. In most other UK regions, the pay of the very top ranges from 10 times that of the very bottom to 8 times.
- High and low pay - There are more highly paid people in London than there in any other region, even after adjusting for its size. The North West has the greatest proportion of low earners. Because it is so dominated by high earners, London has greater pay inequality than every other region.
- Average wage - London has the highest (at £15.84) median wage and the East Midlands the lowest (£10.42).
- Wealth inequality - In general, people in regions in the south of the UK (South West, South East and London) have more wealth than those in the East and the North. London has the greatest wealth inequality. The picture changes when looking at financial and property wealth separately; property wealth in particular is clearly affected by differing house prices across the UK.
- Income inequality and health - Although inequality of average life expectancy across the UK does not directly mirror either wealth or income inequality, it does bear considerable similarities to wealth inequality. There is a gap of roughly 3 years between the region with the highest male life expectancy, the South East, and the region with the lowest, the North West.

<http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/resources/A%20Divided%20Britain.pdf>

### **Number for the month - 2969**

The number of people in the Shropshire Council area who claimed Jobseeker’s Allowance in July, down from 3070 in June. This is 1.6% of the working adult population signing on.

Does anybody know how the figure for Oswestry may differ? Historically we have had higher unemployment than the rest of the county.

**Just a thought.**

A read of an edition of last Friday's Shropshire Star is full of crimes in Oswestry. So what will happen now the front desk of the Police Station is closed???

---

Penny Rice. 8 High Fawr Avenue, Oswestry, SY11 1TB. Tel: 01691 680382 Mob: 07726 328652

We are an autonomous group, affiliated to The Equality Trust