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# campaigner

AUTUMN EDITION 2008



**THIS EDITION**

**2008/09 Wall Planner - Oxfam Rocking October  
- Annie Lennox in Mexico**

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# IN BRIEF

## A note from our new Chief Executive



I am really excited to have joined Oxfam Ireland as the new Chief Executive.

Oxfam is a global movement of people, working to overcome poverty, suffering and injustice. It is only through working together that we can make and influence the changes that will make real differences in the lives of the people we serve - campaigning does make a difference. Thank you for your time, your energy and your commitment to Oxfam Ireland's campaigns.

## Don't let your ethics get crunched

Oxfam Ireland is urging entrepreneurs on the island of Ireland not to set aside their principles in the face of tough trading conditions: the 'credit crunch' shouldn't mean people in the developing world are further squeezed in the drive for the bottom line.

In September's 'Enterprise Insight' business magazine, K D Ryan, our new Corporate and Major Donor Manager, explains how by leaving fairness outside the office, business people risk losing out on the chance to set themselves apart - and could miss a raft of newly conscious customers. Businessmen and businesswomen need to take time to think through the social and environmental impacts in each area of their work, especially if they do business directly with or in developing countries. Doing so not only helps people work their way out of poverty - it makes sound business sense.



David Conachy, Sunday Independent, Dublin.

## Unwrap a world of potential!

Oxfam Unwrapped is back - and this year there are 30 different alternative gifts to choose from. From foodies to gardeners, parents to carers, entrepreneurs to animal lovers - there really is something for everyone. New gifts include tree planting, chicks and piglets. Alongside favourites like the goat and cooking stove, the new items will be available by October on [www.oxfamirelandunwrapped.com](http://www.oxfamirelandunwrapped.com) and in our shops. Pictured here is Ugandan Obama Okot with facilitator Terensio Ocaa. Obama, aged 35, is a married and a father of five. He returned to his land last year having fled to Palabek Kal refugee camp in 1997. He hopes to rent some of his land and sell crops to pay schools fees for his children.



## Irish Aid Budget Cut

Oxfam Ireland was disappointed to see the Irish government cut the development aid budget in June by €45 million for 2008. As our policy officer, Colin Roche put it, "The poorest should be the last to be hit by such cuts".

The government should still make the target of spending 0.7% of GNP on official development assistance by 2012: but poor people will still be hurt in the short term. It's not good news at a time of food crisis in Africa and elsewhere. Upcoming budget negotiations should not jeopardise the government's commitment to reach its 0.7% target.



## Viva la Vida

It can't have escaped your notice that the mighty Coldplay are back with a new album! The boys have worked for many years to raise the profile of Oxfam's campaigns, particularly Make Trade Fair. Oxfam Ireland will be campaigning with the band at their Belfast and Dublin gigs this December, so please look out for us. If you can't wait that long, check out our Coldplay tour blog, following the campaign trail across Canada and the US. [www.oxfam.org/coldplay](http://www.oxfam.org/coldplay)

## Ireland takes its foot off the biofuels pedal

The last edition of Campaigner highlighted the dangers posed to families in poorer countries by rich countries' new biofuels policies. We showed how the rush to these new fuels made from crops has helped raise food prices around the world and is powering a destructive land grab in developing countries. Worse, biofuels used this way will likely increase climate change, not help tackle it.

It's great news that Minister for Energy Eamon Ryan has dropped the Republic of Ireland's target for 5.75 per cent of transport fuel to come from biofuels by 2010. But policy in the UK and at an EU level is still causing huge problems. The Irish government must take a lead in getting the EU targets dropped, and the UK needs to rethink its own new rules. Please visit our website and take action - [www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns](http://www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns).



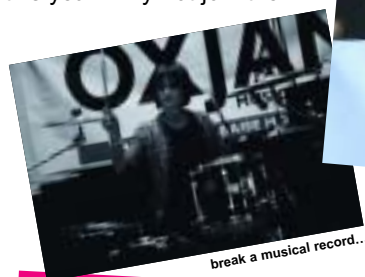
# 31 DAYS IN OCTOBER: OXJAM

Play it. Sing It. Dance It. Spin It.  
Music is your voice...USE IT.

Oxjam is here - this October sees people all over the island of Ireland use the power of music to tackle poverty.

There's still time to join us in your school or workplace, house or pub and raise money and awareness for Oxfam Ireland. Just visit [www.oxfamireland.org/oxjam](http://www.oxfamireland.org/oxjam) or call 0800 0 30 40 55 (NI) or 1890 60 60 65 (ROI).

To help inspire you we talked to a few Oxjammers about what they have planned for this year. Why not join them?



break a musical record...



Oxjam Schoolgirls from Dundalk (2007)

## I'm Ali McGardle & I live in Blackrock, Dublin

**How did you first hear about Oxjam?** I went to the Young Social Innovators in the RDS with my school, and just went up to the stand! I'd heard about it before on MTV2 and other places when it was on in the UK, but I thought it was just organised by Oxfam, I didn't know I'd be able to organise one!

**What are you organising for Oxjam in October?** An afternoon gig with several young talented bands, kind of like a blastbeat gig, but without the competition. It'll be held in The Ambassador, Dublin on 18th October.

**What do you like most about Oxjam?** At my age it's hard enough to get hands-on volunteering opportunities, so I think it's great that people can really get involved in raising money, as well as really enjoying it in the process. I don't like the idea of just handing out money, I want to have DONE something to help!

**What's on your stereo right now?** I'm really liking Black Kids, 2 Many DJ's and Blood Red Shoes at the moment. I love a bit of everything really...

**What would your fantasy Oxjam line-up be?** Well I'd love to get a bit of Irish in there and get Republic of Loose, but The Strokes are really my ultimate. Someday, maybe...



## I'm Andrew Cowan, born in Glasgow, living in Belfast.

**How did Oxjam come into your life?** I was first introduced to Oxjam in Glasgow, where I organised my own gig before moving to Belfast and working with Chris, Sian and Scott in Oxjam Belfast.

**What's the plan for this year?** More great Oxjam Belfast gigs. We're still working hard on the line-up, but last year we had the likes of Fighting with Wire, Juliet Turner, Luan Perle, Rachel Austin, John D'Arcy and many more - something for everyone really. Keep an eye on [www.myspace.com/oxjambelfast](http://www.myspace.com/oxjambelfast)

**What are Oxjam's best bits?** Making music, raising the profile of local artists and raising money and campaigning for Oxfam.

**What are you listening to at the minute?** Fighting With Wire - Man Vs Monster

**If could book any artist present or past for Oxjam, who would they be?** Dave Matthews Band, Manic Street Preachers, Terra Diablo, Paul Weller



## I'm Sian O'Neill from Crumlin, Co. Antrim

**When did you first get involved?** My friend Chris was helping out for Oxjam and it was the year that Belfast became a Fairtrade city so I went along to a gig in the Empire.

**What's the craic for 2008?** We always tend to have big ideas but hopefully this year we can combine the best of local bands with some bigger names and make this the best Oxjam Belfast has seen!

**What's your favourite thing about Oxjam?** That anyone can do it! It can be something as simple as a CD swap to a massive musical event. It's totally up to the individual and it can be as creative as possible!

**Who are you following at the minute?** I am listening, as ever, to a lot of local bands. That's my passion. Bands like The Lowly Knights, The Panama Kings, Rachel Austin, John D'Arcy, Lafaro and the Delawares.

**Who would be on your dream Oxjam bill?** What a difficult question! I would have a festival line-up running all day with a few stages. Headliners would include U2, Arcade Fire and Snow Patrol. Duke Special, Frightened Rabbit, Idlewild, MGMT, Band of Horses, Elbow, Bell X1, The Frames and The Verve would all play. Then I would have a local band stage because I believe that Belfast's music scene is the most refreshing and alive it has ever been.



## My name's Sean Kinahan - from Dromiskin just outside Dundalk

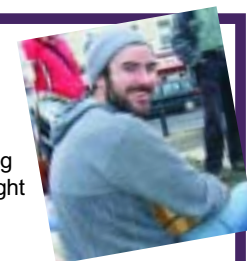
**How did you find out about Oxjam?** I saw some of the info and flyers from the U.K. a few years ago - I don't think there was an Oxjam running in the south of Ireland but it looked like a really great idea overall. When I started volunteering with Oxfam I heard more about Oxjam and loved the idea and got involved straight away in my local area.

**What's in store for your Oxjam?** We hope to organise a few gigs around Dundalk and a street busking festival - rain, hail or snow! Hoping to get a few more people from the area on board with suggestions and ideas.

**What's your favorite part of Oxjam?** The craic - any excuse for a bit of a hooley and to batter out some tunes.

**Who's on your MP3 player?** Can't stop listening to Bob Dylan - I think I may have a problem! Aside from him I do find the odd moment to listen to some Mic Christopher, Gotham Project and The Clash.

**And your ideal Oxjam gig?** Would have to be heyday Clash opening for heyday Zeppelin methinks - who'd all be joined at the aftershow by Bob and Bowie. A nice bunch of bowsies.



# 100 MONTHS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Actually, by the time you read this there will probably be just 99 months left! That's how long we have left to avert catastrophic climate change: not just for ourselves and our own families, but for millions of ordinary people in the developing world who will be hit first and hardest.

The New Economics Foundation, an international think tank backed by a range of environmental groups, has calculated that we have 100 months from August 2008 to tackle greenhouse gas emissions. If we carry on as usual during this time - without radical action by governments and citizens - average global temperatures will likely rise by more than 2° Celsius.

2°C is an important milestone: according to the Stern report, prepared for the UK government, any rise above 2°C risks dangerous climate change - causing widespread environmental destruction and leaving 4 billion people facing water shortages.

As well as taking radical steps to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we produce we need to help people in poor countries adapt to the climate challenge they face from changes which are already inevitable and are happening now.



Oxfam attended the UN Climate Conference in Bali last December, and, backed by some friendly polar bears, made sure delegates got the message that people in poor countries are already facing disaster. There were some commitments made for adaptation funding, but the negotiations still fell short. We'll need your help again before the UN conference on Climate Change - which takes place in Poznan, Poland between 1st and 12th December 2008. Please visit our website in the autumn and take action.

[www.onehundredmonths.org](http://www.onehundredmonths.org)  
[www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns](http://www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns)



## 6 DAYS IN MEXICO

**Every two years, the international community meets for the International AIDS conference and this year, Esther Mhagama - Oxfam Ireland's HIV and AIDS Officer - attended the conference in Mexico. She noted that "the conference was good although in my view, it did not have much for communities - it was overwhelmed by pharmaceutical companies. Still, there were some good opportunities for learning and sharing."**

Oxfam ambassador Anne Lennox also attended and urged donors to keep their promise to achieve universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment by 2010. "AIDS is an emergency and there is not time to waste", she noted.

As we reported in the last edition of Campaigner, the outcome of the G8 summit in Japan is very disappointing, with leaders almost renegeing on their

previous commitment to provide \$60billion for healthcare, including HIV and AIDS. Instead, they agreed to distribute the funding over a longer period: a decrease in real terms. This is despite evidence from the Global Fund to fight HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria that predictable and reliable funds could save millions of lives.

Oxfam also used the conference to highlight the wasted potential of female condoms in helping to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS. Oxfam International Honorary President, Mary Robinson noted "This is a 15-year old scandal born out of ignorance and inertia. We now know that millions of women might have been spared HIV if they had access to this simple method."

To take action, click on 'Health and Education' at [www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns](http://www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns)

