

Fairtrade

in Dumfries and Galloway



Issue 7

Summer 2023



Celebrating 10 Years as a Fair Trade Nation!

Scotland marked its 10th year as a Fair Trade Nation on 25 February 2023. The milestone was celebrated on social media during that week and at a reception in Glasgow's Trades Hall.

The milestone is also being captured in five short films, due to premiere at a special Parliamentary Reception on 24 May, hosted by the Convener of the Cross Party Group on Fairtrade Colin Smyth MSP.

One of the films features Castle Douglas High School pupils who are updating the town's directory to help people find Fairtrade, fairly produced and ethically sourced products. Filming took place in Sunrise Wholefoods, a local health food shop, and the Mad Hatter Tearoom.

Supported by Ward Officer Seán O'Toole, interviews were held with customers and founding member of the local Fairtrade Group Shirley Prahms.





Fairtrade Fortnight

FAIRTRADE 27 Feb – 12 Mar

2023

'Save the food you love' was the theme of Fairtrade Fortnight which ran from 27 February to 12 March. Campaigners highlighted that making the switch to Fairtrade supports producers to protect the planet and safeguard some of our favourite foods, such as coffee, chocolate and bananas.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Castle Douglas Fairtrade Group joined up with the Co-op at a Fairtrade stand in-store and gave away Fairtrade bananas to customers; and held a Quiz at the High School – S1&2 vs S6
- Dumfries Fairtrade Group sold Fairtrade products at the Lenten Lunches in St John's church.
- Dunscore Fairtrade Group held its popular 'Big Brew' in Glenriddel Hall and Dunscore Church, where participants enjoyed local stalls, a treasure hunt, raffle and delicious soups, cakes, tea and coffee. It also ran its 'Wee Brew', where nursery and school children sold their own Fairtrade baking!
- Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group organised a Fairtrade Coffee Morning in Kirkcudbright Parish Church Hall.
- Dumfries and Galloway Council highlighted the campaign through its social media platforms, Customer Service Centres and a staff newsletter.
- At Moffat Academy, the Fairtrade Committee and Miss Henderson held lots of fun activities. As well as learning about Fairtrade through various lessons, there was a Fairtrade assembly, tuck shop, a poster competition, and all classes worked together to create a Moffat Primary Endangered Shopping Aisle.



Castle Douglas Co-op's banana giveaway



Colin Smyth MSP & Chair of the Regional Fairtrade Steering Group with a young Fairtrade supporter and Charles Sim, Chair of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum

- The Scottish Fair Trade Forum organised two online events, both showcasing work in Dunscore! The first was in conjunction with Eco Congregation Scotland to raise awareness of the links between Fair Trade and climate change, and the second launched a project to exchange information between food growing and farming communities in Scotland and Malawi, which you can watch a film about on the Scottish Fair Trade Forum's YouTube channel.
- The Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Fairtrade invited Zaytoun representatives and Doha Asous, an olive grower in Burin, to their meeting, where they explained the challenges they've overcome to produce their Fairtrade products.
- The Fairtrade Foundation ran a series of online 'Big Fairtrade Get Togethers', to share insights from Fairtrade farmers and other experts on securing a sustainable future for our food.



Moffat Fairtrade tuck shop



Moffat poster competition winners



Dunscore's Big Brew



Moffat endangered shopping aisle



Moffat Fairtrade assembly

Dumfries Group Re-launch Success

The first in-person meeting of Dumfries Fairtrade Group since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic was held on 10 October 2022 at The Usual Place. The purpose was to relaunch the Group as a number of key people are no longer here to support its work.

Open to everyone and providing the opportunity to sample some Fairtrade chocolate, the meeting was a great success and attracted new volunteers eager to learn more about how they can support Fairtrade.



Rosemary Buwert, Chair of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group, speaking at the meeting.

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

The Fairtrade Foundation partnered with The Climate Coalition to organise another [Great Big Green Week](#), which celebrated community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Running from 24 September to 2 October 2022, Fairtrade supporters were asked to 'sow their solidarity' with farmers and workers fighting the climate crisis by signing a [Community Declaration](#) and planting wildflower seeds!

Fair Trade Campaigner Conference 2022

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum held their annual Campaigner Conference on 10 September 2022 in Linlithgow. Attendees were treated to a programme packed full of speakers including Neil Gray MSP and representatives from the Fairtrade Foundation, Fair Trade Wales and [Cocagi Coffee](#) in Rwanda.

An inspirational contribution from a new member of the Board of Trustees focussed on how to get young people involved - capitalising on their passion for equity and tackling the climate emergency.

The Fairtrade Foundation highlighted changes to the organisation's promotional activity with a move away from free hard copy materials like posters and stickers and towards social media profiles and suggested postings, because it has a much bigger reach and is more cost effective.

The challenge of increasing volunteer activity after the Pandemic was a topic of conversation between attendees and building back gradually was seen to be the way ahead.



New choc on the block!

Tony's Chokoloney is a Dutch company which has been making headlines in recent years due to its innovative flavours (like white strawberry cheesecake and dark lemony caramel cocoa biscuit) and each chocolate bar being unevenly divided to reflect the inequality in the industry.

The company has a stated mission 'to make 100% slave free the norm in chocolate' and its [website](#) has petitions, blogs and other opportunities to get involved.

The Council's Youth Work Service has used Tony Chokoloney's conversation cards (and chocolate bars!) to facilitate discussions about equality and justice.

World Fair Trade Day

World Fair Trade Day is celebrated by Fairtrade campaigners on the second Saturday of May each year; and over the years it's been marked in different ways.

In 2022, campaigners raised their hands for climate justice. Here in Scotland, Hand Up Events held a concert at the Usher Hall featuring Skerryvore, Peatbog Faeries and Bombskare.



The 2021 theme was 'Build Back Fairer'.



World Fair Trade Day will be held on Saturday 13th May this year.

Education for Sustainability Prioritised

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Education and Learning Directorate launched its first regional Learning for Sustainability Conference for staff in June 2021. Its keynote

addresses and workshops, delivered online using Microsoft Teams and OneNote Notebook, highlighted a range of Global Citizenship, Sustainable Education and Outdoor Learning resources which staff can use with children and young people.

The Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group provided the conference with details of many excellent Fairtrade resources, including the [Fair Trade Nurseries Support Pack](#), [Fairtrade Schools website](#) and its [teaching resource library](#) and examples of [Fairtrade in Enterprise Education](#). The Group also shared a short video demonstrating the successful partnership between staff at Dunscore Pre-School and Primary School and members of [Dunscore Fairtrade Group](#).

David Maxwell, Education Officer, explained, "Partnership working is crucial if we are to meet the aspirations of the Learning for Sustainability Action Plan. The Conference highlights the wide range of national and local partners available to our settings and schools as we embed Learning for Sustainability into our practice. We are aware of a number of schools already engaging in work around Fairtrade and we would hope that sharing these materials in our conference would further highlight this learning opportunity."

Curriculum Support Officer, Karen Creighton, who organised the conference, said "By presenting the conference in an online format we are ensuring that the materials are available for practitioners throughout next session to support their work in Learning for Sustainability. The materials and video provided by the Fairtrade Steering Group highlight how effective and successful partnership working can be."

The Fairtrade section of the OneNote Notebook.





Fairtrade Fortnight 2022

The people of Dumfries and Galloway showed solidarity with communities overseas on the frontline of the climate crisis during Fairtrade Fortnight in 2022.

The climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. By choosing Fairtrade we provide them with a Minimum Price for their products, extra money through the Fairtrade Premium that is used to meet community needs and support them to meet Fairtrade Standards which protect the environment.

Local Events

The Regional Fairtrade Steering Group, which comprises Fairtrade campaigners from Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Dunscore, Kirkcudbright and Wigtown along with Dumfries and Galloway Council and Loch Arthur Camphill Community, highlighted the campaign in a range of ways across the region.

The Castle Douglas Fairtrade group organised a vibrant window display showcasing Fairtrade products and posters created by Castle Douglas Primary School pupils.



At a stand in their Castle Douglas store, the Coop promoted Fairtrade Fortnight by giving away free Fairtrade bananas!



Dumfries Fairtrade Group held an event via Zoom.

Dunscore's 'Big Brew' was back at Glenriddel Hall and Dunscore Church. A range of stalls showcased the best in Fairtrade and local produce and products.



Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group held a Fairtrade Coffee Morning in Kirkcudbright Parish Church Hall.

Fairtrade Fortnight was highlighted to Dumfries and Galloway Council's staff and customers through posters in the Council's Headquarters and Customer Service Centres, emails, an article in the Community Bulletin and posts on the Council's social media pages. Pupils also learned about Fairtrade in schools.

National Events

Online events were held across Scotland.



Scottish Fair Trade Forum

'Fairtrade, Our Carbon Footprint and the Bigger Picture' explored what the ethical consumer needs to know about the carbon cost of buying Fairtrade, and the difference Fairtrade makes around the world.

'Climate Change, Women, Agriculture and Fairtrade' discussed the difference Fairtrade makes to women in agriculture who are dealing with the impact of climate change on their livelihood.



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

The Fairtrade Foundation's virtual 'Choose the World you Want' festival was back! This series of virtual events engaged, informed and educated people around the urgent message of Fairtrade and climate change, the future of our food and those who produce it. The festival featured panel discussions, performances, workshops and collaborations between the Fairtrade Foundation and retailers, chefs and high-profile names in the world of food and sustainability.



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

At their meeting in March 2022, the Cross Party Group on Fair Trade heard from Taysir and Cathi from Zaytoun and Aubrey and Nduzani from Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association about the impact of climate change on the frontline.

When it held its AGM in June 2022, one of our local MSPs, Colin Smyth, was re-elected as Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Fair Trade.



What's a Fairtrade Faith Group?

Fairtrade is making a real difference to the lives of more than 7 million farmers, workers and their families in 59 developing countries.

Faith groups are key supporters of Fairtrade and thousands of churches making the connection between trade and poverty and committing to using Fairtrade products including tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits over the past 25 years, has formed a central pillar of the Fairtrade movement.

Matthew Aitken of the Dunscore Fairtrade Group tells us why and how Dunscore Parish Church became a **Fairtrade Church**.

"You are probably aware of Fairtrade Towns - Dumfries is one example. You may also know that it is possible to be a Fairtrade Zone and Dumfries and Galloway is one of several across Scotland. But did you know that you can be a Fairtrade Church (or other faith group)?

Fairness and trading fairly is expected of us through biblical teaching. For example, Micah chapter 6 verse 8 says: 'What does the Lord require of us: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God' and Jesus, himself, called on us to love our neighbour. One way that we can love our neighbour is by ensuring that they receive a fair price for their work. The church congregation in Dunscore decided that they couldn't justify buying a product where the producer may well have been exploited and where child labour is likely when (often at no extra cost) they can buy one that guarantees a fair return to the producer and ensures ethical standards of production.



Fairtrade tea, coffee, communion wine and polo shirts used at Dunscore Parish Church.

It is surprisingly easy to register to become a Fairtrade Church. All you need to do is commit to:

1. Use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and to share this information with your congregation.
2. Celebrate **Fairtrade Fortnight** and integrate Fairtrade into the life of your place of worship through other faith-based holidays, sermons and services.
3. Engage with other Fairtrade campaigns and connect with community groups, such as schools and towns.

In Dunscore, we registered as a Fairtrade Church over 15 years ago and the concept of Fairtrade is embedded in all that the church does.

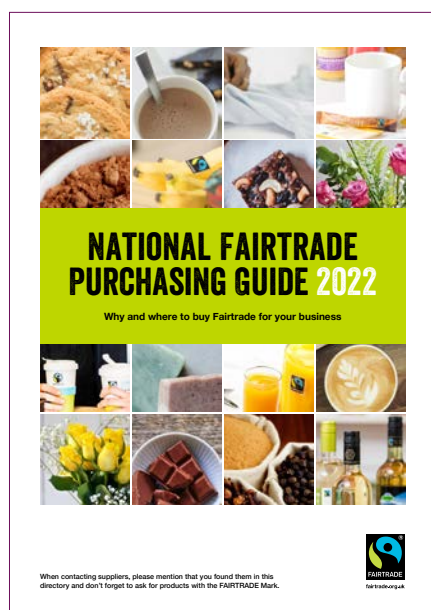
We have a church Ethical Purchasing Policy and this includes a requirement to buy Fairtrade where this is available. As a consequence, we always use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar at services and at any church events. And, over the years, we have taken this further and Fairtrade products that we now use include Fairtrade communion wine, rubber gloves and soap. When we were considering purchasing church polo shirts we checked whether they could be Fairtrade. We found some that are Fairtrade, use organic cotton and are excellent quality!

Moreover, Dunscore Church was instrumental in setting up the Dunscore Fairtrade Village and, while this active group reaches far beyond the church now, there are still several church members on the Steering Group.

The process of becoming a Fairtrade Church was very easy and, most importantly, helped us put our faith into action. I warmly encourage all church leaders to consider the benefits to their congregations of taking the few small steps to become a Fairtrade church!"

National Fairtrade Purchasing Guide

Would you like to purchase Fairtrade products for your organisation, shop, event, office or restaurant but don't know where to find them?



Help is at hand through the [National Fairtrade Purchasing Guide 2022](#), developed by The Fairtrade Foundation. It also outlines the benefits of purchasing Fairtrade products, explaining 'Corporate behaviour is under intense scrutiny by an increasingly discerning public who make ethical choices when spending their money. Integrating Fairtrade into your business by switching to Fairtrade purchasing is a highly effective way of showing customers that you care, and potentially attracting more customers'.

More locally, the Scottish Fair Trade Forum has a webpage which lists [suppliers of the Fairtrade Mark, WFTO guaranteed and fairly traded products across Scotland](#). They're also working on a [directory of shops, cafes and restaurants which sell Fair Trade goods in Scotland](#).

2021 Reflections

The work of local Fairtrade Groups in Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Dunscore, Kirkcudbright and Wigtown has earned each place the title of 'Fairtrade Town' over the years, but when did Fairtrade Towns begin and what impact do they have? Chrysi Dimaki explains in her [blog on the Fairtrade Foundation's website](#).



"It started 20 years ago this November, when Garstang in Lancashire was first awarded Fairtrade Town status. Since then, Fairtrade Communities have been leading the fight for trade justice. Their campaigning has put Fairtrade on the community agenda at town, city or county level, building networks of people who believe in social justice, and taking action together.

20 years on there is still plenty to achieve and for some, change feels like it's not coming fast enough. Low incomes and unequal opportunities to trade are still a sad reality and the climate crisis is disproportionately affecting communities whose livelihoods depend on small-scale agriculture.

The journey to trade, and more broadly social justice was never meant to be straightforward. By nature, social change happens slowly, in fits and starts, and it can feel like a frustrating waiting game at times. As

Bruce Crowther, the founder of the Fair Trade Towns movement, said in [a recent interview](#): 'No matter how hard things get, continue to do what you believe in, what you feel it is the right thing to do in your life. Even if you feel you are banging your head against a brick wall, that wall will eventually fall!'

So why is it that grassroots campaign groups, like Fairtrade Communities, can be so effective in breaking the walls of injustice down? Because decision makers, either in politics or in business, need evidence of social agreement to introduce change. Grassroots campaign groups embody that evidence. They are the ones who kickstart the process of change, by questioning existing unfair practices currently considered normal. They challenge power imbalances and demonstrate to those around them, from their peers to policy makers, that they want change.

[It is through those interactions that change happens.](#) When enough people have been influenced to do things differently, then wider systemic change happens. It is true that reaching that tipping point can take a long time, but grassroots groups take the first steps in the journey and lead the way at low and high points of what can be a rollercoaster ride".

Vik the Viking visits Kirkcudbright Arts & Crafts Trail

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group ran a stall and encouraged locals and visitors to take a picture as Fairtrade enthusiast Vik the Viking, at the Kirkcudbright Arts and Craft Trail in August 2021!

In November, the Group also held a Fairtrade coffee morning and sale.

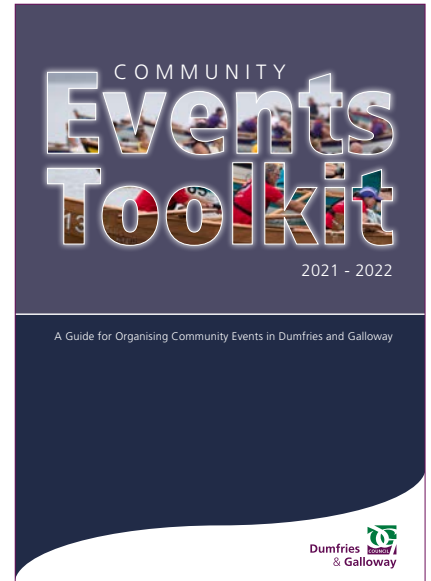


Council promotes Fairtrade to Events Organisers

Dumfries and Galloway Council updated its Community Events Toolkit in light of the Coronavirus pandemic to provide a practical, easy to use resource for Dumfries and Galloway's festivals and events organisers.

The Toolkit encourages the use of Fairtrade products and includes guidance on all aspects of events planning and a host of helpful tips! Access a [copy](#) on the [Council's festival and events webpage](#).

Putting the toolkit into practice, Fairtrade was well represented at the Tour Series 2021, which was held in Castle Douglas during August.



Did You Know?



**MORE THAN
1.9 MILLION
FARMERS AND WORKERS
IN FAIRTRADE CERTIFIED
PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS**



1,880 FAIRTRADE CERTIFIED PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS IN 71 COUNTRIES



**17% OF FARMERS AND
41% OF WORKERS
IN FAIRTRADE
ARE WOMEN**

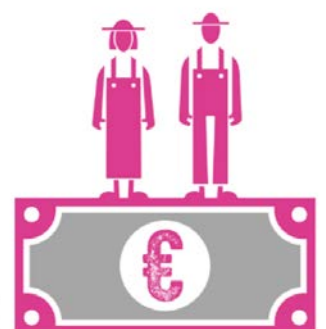


Matthew Aitken from Dunscore Fairtrade Group and Liz Manson from Dumfries and Galloway Council at the Tour Series.



Fairtrade cola served in the hospitality tent.

**ON AVERAGE
EACH FAIRTRADE
PRODUCER
ORGANISATION
RECEIVED
MORE THAN
£90,000
IN FAIRTRADE PREMIUM**



Fairtrade Fortnight 2021



Dumfries and Galloway Council

Dumfries and Galloway Council highlighted Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 through its social media channels. Responding to the campaign theme, 'it's time to choose the world you want', Councillors and Senior Managers shared their views on the world they want to see through the infographics below.



Former Councillor and Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Elaine Murray.



Former Councillor and Chair of Education and Learning Committee, Jeff Leaver.



Community Planning & Engagement Manager, Liz Manson, shared her views [@DGCEmpowerment](#)

Councillor Dougie Campbell, illustrated the link between Fairtrade and climate change in this article which appeared in [Edition 57](#) of the Council's [Community Bulletin](#).

Think Globally, Act Locally

Fairtrade Fortnight: 22 February to 7 March 2021

In December, my first annual report as Environment Champion, highlighted that we can't lose sight of the fact that the poorest in society will be most badly affected by climate change. And that is exactly the issue for farmers and producers in developing countries who have done least to cause the climate emergency but who are experiencing its worst impact. For example, 21 people from Cote d'Ivoire have the same carbon footprint as one person in the UK.

Climate change is resulting in more volatile, less predictable seasons and for developing countries it is even more devastating. They are experiencing floods and droughts, water scarcity, high temperatures, and more plant diseases. If we continue as we are, by 2050:

- as much as 50 percent of the global surface area currently used for coffee farming may no longer be usable
- there will be a drastic decline in banana yields in 10 countries, including India, Brazil and Colombia
- many cocoa growing regions in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, which produce more than half the world's cocoa, will become too hot to grow the crop

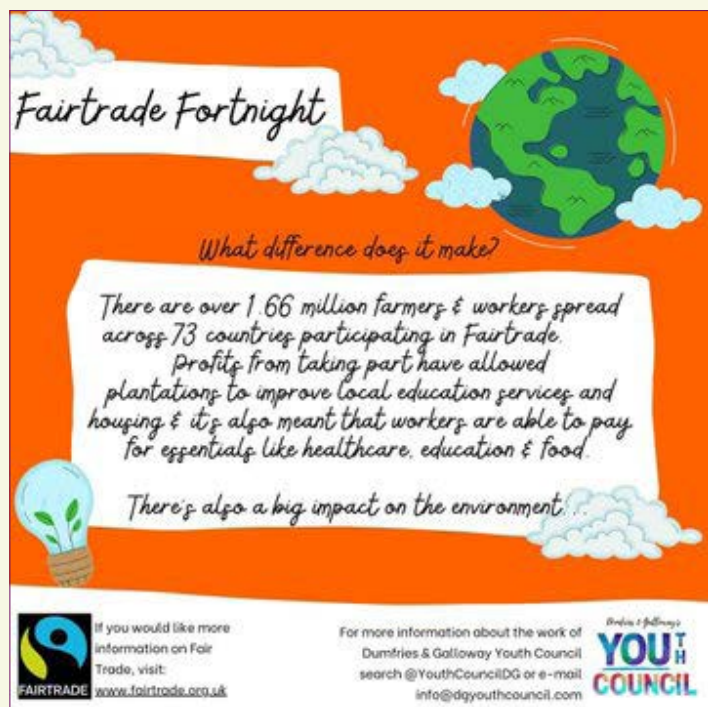
So, if we don't want to lose coffee, bananas and chocolate and other items that we enjoy, we need to take action. Now.

We can all do something simple to prevent that happening: buy some of the many Fairtrade products available in our local shops. When you buy something with a Fairtrade mark, such as flowers, chocolate, drinks or t-shirts, it guarantees that the producer has been given a fair price and that some of the money contributes to developments in the community. This can include investing in new types of crops that are more weather resistant, more sustainable transportation, diversifying so they don't entirely rely on one crop, or buying basic equipment that helps to forecast storms and typhoons.

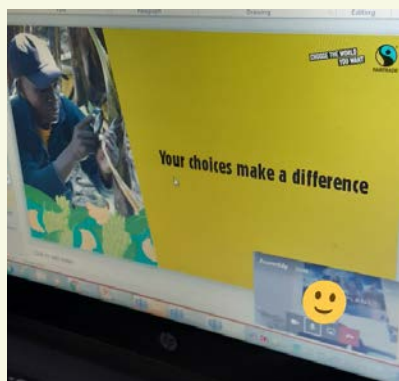
The Dumfries and Galloway Climate Emergency Strategic Plan is an important contribution to what must be an international effort. If there is one thing that the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted it's that we are connected to the rest of the world.

The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 is 'Time to Choose the World We Want'. As Environment Champion, I want it to be a world in which everyone has a good quality of life and a sustainable environment, wherever they live.

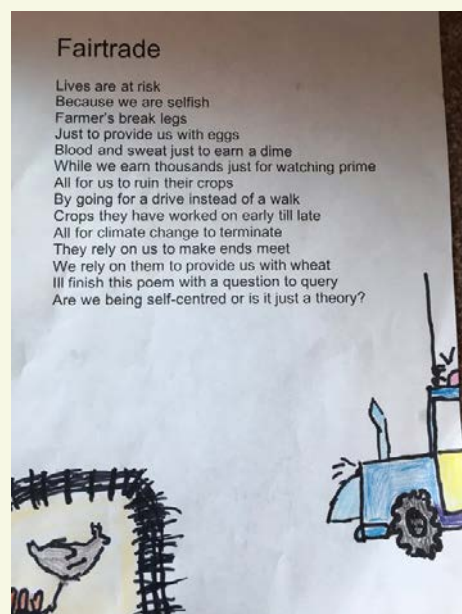
Dumfries and Galloway's Youth Council highlighted the difference Fairtrade makes with the posts below @ [YouthCouncilDG](#)



Nethermill Primary School's Pupil Councillors shared a PowerPoint presentation about Fairtrade Fortnight at their virtual assembly.



A Castle Douglas High School pupil wrote this insightful and challenging poem.



Castle Douglas

Castle Douglas Fairtrade Group rented a shop on King Street in Castle Douglas during the first weekend of Fairtrade Fortnight. They created an impressive window display that showcased Fairtrade products available in local shops. Passersby were given free individually wrapped samples of tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits and invited to view an exhibition of photos inside. The Group also organised a Town Trail to encourage people to support local shops that sell Fairtrade.



Window display in Castle Douglas.

Dumfries

Dumfries Fairtrade Group hosted an online coffee morning, which featured a quiz, short films and provided a chance for a chat!

Dunscore

Dunscore Fairtrade Group arranged a Zoom chat with Bosman Adana, a Fairtrade Wine Producer from South Africa. It gave participants an insight into the workings of a Fairtrade business and an opportunity to learn how the Fairtrade Premium is spent to the benefit of the local community. Bosman Adana supply a Co-op labelled wine.

Kirkcudbright

The Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group displayed their Fairtrade banner in the town, exhibited tables of Fairtrade products in Tesco and the Co-op and showcased Fairtrade products in the window of a local delicatessen.

They also participated in Traidcraft's 'Live Fair For Lent' roadshow (40 events for 40 days of Lent).



The Scottish Fair Trade Forum held a Zoom event called, 'What's Fairtrade got to do with Fighting the Climate Crisis?'

A panel of speakers, including staff from Nourish Scotland, Glasgow Caledonian University, The Fairtrade Foundation, Palestine Fairtrade Association and the SOPPEXCCA Coffee Co-operative in Nicaragua, discussed the role of Fairtrade in tackling climate change.

They highlighted that [The Fairtrade Standards](#) include a Climate Standard and promote sustainability by supporting Fairtrade farmers and workers to meet and adapt to climate challenges. Examples of this work include a Climate Academy, which trains coffee farmers in Ethiopia to adapt to climate change, and tree planting in cocoa plantations to shade crops from high temperatures.

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum also launched an animation called ['Wake Up and Smell the Coffee'](#), which highlights how purchasing Fairtrade coffee helps tackle climate change and poverty.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Group's well-attended meeting in March 2021 was held via Zoom.

The online nature of the meeting facilitated easy involvement of the following guest speakers from different countries:

- Aubrey Meki Chilenje and Nduzani Zaya from Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association in Malawi
- Fidele Gisore an Associate Consultant at Challenges Group in Rwanda
- Fatima Ismael of the SOPPEXCCA Coffee Cooperative in Nicaragua
- Mohammed Ruzzi of the Palestine Fair Trade Association

Each speaker described the challenges they have faced due to climate change and how Fair Trade has helped to address these challenges. They also discussed the future challenges facing them.

David Taylor of the Fairtrade Foundation outlined the key events and messages from Fairtrade Fortnight.



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

The Fairtrade Foundation held a free festival of online activities to entertain, educate and inspire us all to choose the world we want to see.

People from all over the UK came together in a show of support for the farmers behind our food on the front line of the climate crisis. From online panels to bake-offs and coffee mornings over 50 virtual events took place, with supporters sharing the power of Fairtrade and what needs to happen next to ensure farmers and workers are put front and centre of conversations on how to tackle the climate crisis.





Contact us

For further information about Fairtrade, or to get involved in the work in your local area, please find contact details for the local Fairtrade Groups below.



Castle Douglas Fairtrade Group

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 www.twitter.com/fairdunscore
 www.dunscore.org.uk/fairtrade-village

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group



 rcryall@gmail.com
 <http://www.facebook.com/Kirkcudbright-Fairtrade-Group-788300664631364>

Fairtrade in Dumfries and Galloway Facebook page

 [Look up ‘Dumfries and Galloway Fairtrade’](https://www.facebook.com/DumfriesandGallowayFairtrade)
 [@DGFairtrade](https://twitter.com/DGFairtrade)





Dumfries and Galloway Council

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Links

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Scottish Fair Trade Forum

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 www.facebook.com/FairTradeNation
 www.twitter.com/FairTradeNation
 www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk

Did you know?

Dumfries and Galloway Council uses a variety of Fairtrade products within its daily business. Indeed, Fairtrade juice, tea, coffee and sugar is used at Civic Events, meetings in key Council facilities and in schools across the region!