

Fairtrade

in Dumfries and Galloway

Issue 2

Summer 2018

We are a Fairtrade Zone!



Dumfries and Galloway is now officially a Fairtrade Zone. This award was given to the region by the Fairtrade Foundation in October 2017 and recognises the work of our campaign which started ten years ago.

To achieve Fairtrade Zone status we had to demonstrate grass roots support across the region and so Fairtrade campaigners from Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Dunscore, Kirkcudbright and Wigtown, joined Dumfries and Galloway Council and Loch Arthur Camphill Community (the region's Fairtrade Employer Champion) to promote Fairtrade.

Adam Gardner, Communities Campaigns Manager at the Fairtrade Foundation, said:

"We are delighted to welcome Dumfries and Galloway to the Fairtrade movement which now boasts more than 1,900 communities worldwide, taking practical steps to making a fairer world trade system a reality. Thanks to the support of the public and campaigners, an increasing number of farmers in developing countries are now selling their products on Fairtrade terms, bringing them a stable income, and the chance to trade their way out of poverty".

Celebration events were held across the region to recognise the achievement. The photos show the award being presented from the Fairtrade Foundation to the Regional Steering Group Chair Colin Smyth MSP and the celebrations at Dumfries Fairtrade Group's annual Fairer World Fair.

Dumfries

It has been a busy few months for the Dumfries Fairtrade Group.

Fairer World Fair

The annual Fairer World Fair, organised by Dumfries Fairtrade Group, was held on Saturday 4th November at St George's Church Hall.

The highlight of the day was celebrating Dumfries and Galloway's Fairtrade Zone status with a delicious cake, created by Annette's Baking in a Box (recently featured in Channel 4's My Kitchen Rules UK).

Rosemary Buwert, Chair of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group, said, "The annual Fairer World Fair is a showcase for many of the products that are available locally, and we also love to support local food producers and businesses, so it was great to have Annette's Baking in a Box as part of the day."

The Fair was a great success and included products and stalls from Neal's Yard, Oxfam, Hadeel (from Edinburgh), Traidcraft, Just Trading Scotland, Senegal, Second Nature and YhoYho as well as a wonderful café!

Fairtrade Town Status Renewal



Evidence to renew Dumfries Town's Fairtrade status was submitted to the Fairtrade Foundation in October and we received our renewal certificate in early December. This is now displayed in the Ewart Library.

LOCAL ROUND-UP

Kirkcudbright

The Kirkcudbright Group has been busy with its many regular activities including talks at schools, a biannual newsletter, a Coffee Morning for One World Week, a stand at the Country Fair in September and yet another 90kg Rice Challenge! (every 90kg of Fairtrade rice that's sold provides enough funding to pay for ploughs for local co-operatives or a child in a developing country to attend secondary school).

Dunscore

The combination of Bala Sport Fairtrade footballs and Queen of the South Goalkeepers ensured that a 'Beat The Goalie' competition at Dunscore Gala proved a winner!



Castle Douglas

The High School Christmas Fayre on 30th November went like.... well.... a fair! A wonderful array of handmade, ethically and locally sourced products were on display and Traidcraft staff brought this fab range of goodies!



Fairtrade flowers, Fairtrade wine, Fairtrade gold and other products were on display at the Friars Carse Wedding Fayre in January as those who attended were encouraged to 'Make Your Wedding Fair'.



Wigtown



Another Beltie joins the herd!

Featuring 'Wigtown Book Town' on his side and sporting a fetching mini book made by a local artist, the Name our Beltie competition at the Wigtown Book Festival in September/October attracted lots of interest. The winning name, suggested by Mary Mitchell from Stranraer, was Bertie the Beltie. Pictured are Mary Mitchell receiving the prize of a Fairtrade Hamper from Councillor Katie Hagmann, Vice Chair of Wigtown Area Committee, Sandra McDowall, Chair of Wigtown Festival Company (who was the judge), Kenny Barr, Fundraising Officer and Mary's friend Mairi McRobert.



NATIONAL UPDATES

Scottish Fair Trade Forum

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum held their annual Campaigner Conference on 2nd September in Perth. Rolf Buwert from



the Dumfries Fairtrade Group and Rhona Macgregor from Dumfries and Galloway Council joined campaigners from across Scotland at the event.

The conference involved presentations on changes in

the use of the Fairtrade Mark, the implications of Brexit on the UK's trade with the Global South, Fairtrade's place in the Scottish Government's International Development Strategy and Northern Ireland's journey to become a Fairtrade Nation.

After the conference, the Scottish Fair Trade Forum held their AGM and delegates took part in a walk around Perth, which incorporated stops at Fairtrade shops and churches. They also heard what pupils from two local schools were doing to support Fairtrade.

This year the Scottish Fair Trade Forum is planning to hold their Campaigners Conference in Dumfries and Galloway on 8th September 2018. Please look out for details nearer the time - it would be great if you could join us!



Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Fairtrade

The AGM of the Cross Party Group on Fairtrade took place on 1st November and Colin Smyth, one of our local MSPs, was unanimously re-elected as the Convener. Gordon Lindhurst MSP is the Vice Convener and Martin Rhodes of The Scottish Fair Trade Forum is the Secretary.

A presentation from Fairtrade Foundation Campaign and Policy expert Helen Dennis highlighted

the opportunities and challenges for fair trading during Brexit and there was a lot of discussion about where and how MPs, MSPs and local campaigners could get involved.

Updates on public procurement, Sainsbury's and links with other groups, including the UK Parliament Group, also proved very useful.

Fairtrade FORTNIGHT 2018

Fairtrade Fortnight ran from Monday 26th February until Sunday 11th March and this year's theme was 'Come on in to Fairtrade'. It was promoted and celebrated right across the region by local Fairtrade Groups, Dumfries and Galloway Council, voluntary organisations, businesses and faith groups.

School Poster Competition

To celebrate Dumfries and Galloway becoming a Fairtrade Zone, the Dumfries Fairtrade Group invited primary school pupils across the region to design a poster on the theme "Dumfries and Galloway a Fairtrade Zone" linking local and Fairtrade themes. The winning posters were then displayed in the Ewart Library in Dumfries during Fairtrade Fortnight. The winners came from Noblehill, Dunscore, Amisfield, Park and Carrutherstown Primary Schools. The entries were judged by Council Leader Elaine Murray; Councillor Jeff Leaver, Chair of Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning Committee; Julie Hollis, Cloud 9 studio; and Rosemary Buwert, Dumfries Fairtrade Group.

The winning entries

Castle Douglas
A bag of Fairtrade goodies was the prize for a 'Fair-ly Easy Fairtrade Quiz' which was run in Castle Douglas during Fairtrade Fortnight.



But everyone was a winner at Threave Gardens Tea Room on Sunday 18th March which hosted free tastings of Fairtrade chocolate, wine and biscuits!



Alison Wright, on behalf of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group, said "Children in Dumfries and Galloway are passionate about Fairtrade. We were delighted to see great entries from across the region from near Annan to Stranraer". One of the judges, Julie Hollis, added "As judges we were impressed by the standard and variety of entries!

The judges at work

The children worked hard to demonstrate what Fairtrade meant to them and the understanding of the importance of being a Fairtrade supporter shone through."



Dumfries

This year, Fairtrade Fortnight continued into May - the bad weather in March had meant the postponement of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group's Tasting Evening. Instead of snow and ice, our rescheduled event in May was on a lovely sunny evening which brought more than 60 people to The Stove to try different Fairtrade teas, coffees, chocolates, wines and even cosmetics, along with local cheeses and oatcakes accompanied by Eswatini chutneys from Swaziland.

Dumfries Fairtrade Group really enjoyed the opportunity to work with Fair Squared Cosmetics, Oxfam Dumfries and The Stove to create this event, which reached a wide range of people, and to showcase a diverse range of products with the Fairtrade Mark.



Moffat

And here's 'Toffee', the toffee coloured Beltie from the home of Moffat Toffee! The name was picked through a competition amongst pupils from Moffat Primary School as part of their Fairtrade Day on 15th March which involved baking, games, singing and drama! When the Moffat Toffee shop heard about the Beltie's name they kindly made a special batch of Fairtrade Moffat Toffee for the pupils!



Wigtown

Members of two book groups and other avid readers met in Wigtown Customer Service Centre for 'A Bite, A Book & A Blether' on Tuesday 27th February. Using Fairtrade ingredients, soup, sandwiches, cake, tea and coffee were provided for those who attended. As we can see from the smiles in the picture, an enjoyable time was had by all!



Dunscore

Dunscore was highlighted nationally when they were featured as the Fairtrade Foundation's 'Community of the Day' during Fairtrade Fortnight! Find out what the community did to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight below.

Local groups created a frieze based on the 'Come on in to Fairtrade' theme, which was hung outside the village hall. During its annual Big Brew, twenty five stall holders filled the village hall and church with fairly traded and local goods, making the event twice its usual size! As well as enjoying an excellent range of items for sale, those who attended were treated to music and Fairtrade refreshments!



The Fairtrade Group at Dunscore Primary School baked for their Big Brew using Fairtrade chocolate and sugar. They invited everyone in the village for a Coffee Afternoon to enjoy the results, washed down with some Fairtrade beverages of course!



The Pre-School invited parents, grandparents and friends to a Wee Brew where everyone enjoyed Fairtrade cakes and biscuits, baked by the children, and a Fairtrade chocolate fountain. The children demonstrated their knowledge of Fairtrade using an interactive computer story.



Dunscore Parish Church has been a Fairtrade church for many years. Fairtrade featured in the sermon and prayers during its service at the start of Fairtrade Fortnight, which was followed by a simple but delicious lunch including fairly traded Kilombero rice from Malawi and a Fairtrade chocolate fountain.

During Fairtrade Fortnight the number of Fairtrade gold licenced jewellery designers in the area doubled! Dunscore jewellery designer (and Big Brew stall-holder) Joanna Repton announced that, like Alison McLeod from Thornhill, she is now licenced to work with Fairtrade gold.



Kirkcudbright

Fairtrade Fortnight goes town-wide in Kirkcudbright

They say every picture speaks a thousand words, and here's proof that Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 was the hot topic on everyone's lips in Kirkcudbright this year. The annual event was well supported by businesses, churches (of every denomination) and residents alike in Kirkcudbright. The Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group made good use of the excellent range of Fortnight promotional materials available from the Fairtrade Foundation. Local traders around the town were more than happy to put up a range of posters and materials provided by the Group, and local householders did their own displays in windows or on gate posts.

The Group has always invested considerable time in educating youngsters about Fairtrade, and this year was no exception. Despite the wintry weather, we took an art activity and presentation to most schools in the area including Kirkcudbright, Twynholm, Auchencairn and Borgue Primaries, and ran a Fairtrade stall for three days at Dalbeattie High. Our Kirkcudbright Guides also worked hard to achieve their Fairtrade badges.



Our stall at Dalbeattie High



'Come on In' open doors at Twynholm Primary



Local churches invited us in



Brambles Fairtrade window



A sample of Fairtrade gifts on sale

Coffee mornings are very popular in the town, and our Fairtrade event at the start of the Fortnight proved no exception. We had to find extra tables to cope with the high demand, ran out of cheese scones yet again (very popular in Kirkcudbright!), sold a wide range of Fairtrade gifts and foods, ran a successful raffle with donated products from local retailers, and raised a record amount of money to support the Fairtrade Foundation. We thank everyone who helped or attended it.

The Group specifically promoted businesses who sold Fairtrade products through regular Facebook updates with recipes, stories and images of the goods available – also providing a useful database to be used in future promotions. Several businesses also put together their own displays of Fairtrade products. We circulated our updated Fairtrade directory and town map, and the Group secured good coverage of Fairtrade Fortnight activities and businesses through the kind support of the Galloway News.

We hope to see you again soon at both the Kirkcudbright Country Fair (14-15 July) and the Art & Crafts Trail (3-6 August)!

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.

Although there's activity in individual schools and organisations, we don't have any Fairtrade Groups in Annandale and Eskdale or Wigtown but would love to hear of people who would like to be involved in one!

Castle Douglas Fairtrade Group

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Fairtrade in Dumfries and Galloway Facebook page

Look up 'Dumfries and Galloway Fairtrade'

Dumfries and Galloway Council

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Links

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Future Meetings and Events

Next meeting of the Regional Steering Group is on Monday 17th September in Municipal Chambers, Dumfries.

Dumfries and Galloway Council has received its membership of the **Scottish Fair Trade Forum for 2018**. This means we can access their events and information. Liz Manson, the Dumfries and Galloway Council representative on the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, was elected the "large organisation" representative on the Board and therefore participates in quarterly meetings.

