

Fairtrade

in Dumfries and Galloway

Issue 3

Autumn 2018

Dumfries and Galloway hosts the Scottish Fair Trade Campaigner Annual Conference 2018



The annual **Scottish Fair Trade Campaigner Conference** took place on 8 September 2018 at Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries. The theme for the conference was 'Partnerships for Fair Trade' and the event was jointly delivered by the Scottish Fair Trade Forum and the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group.

Webster Kita and Howard Msukwa of the Kaporo Smallholder Farmers' Association **spoke** about the transformative impact of Fair Trade partnerships on

livelihoods in their rice-growing communities in Malawi. Thanks to a Fair Trade partnership with Paisley-based distributor JTS, they have managed to increase the quality and quantity of Kilombero rice that can be sold to the Scottish market. Profits from sales have improved access to food and education for people in the communities where the rice is grown.

The Regional Fairtrade Steering Group delivered a **presentation** about their work and hosted a **world cafe activity** that gave delegates a chance to share campaign ideas from their local Fairtrade groups. Delegates also **sampled** products from the Co-op and Loch Arthur Camphill Community and visited the large Fairtrade stall at St John's Church.

Left photo shows the Conference speakers, Colin Smyth MSP (Chair of The Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Fair Trade and also the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group) and members of the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group.

Right photo shows most of the Dumfries and Galloway Fairtrade Beltie Herd, Cuddy (Kirkcudbright), Dougie (Castle Douglas), Coco (Dumfries and Galloway Council), Bertie (Wigtown), Toffee (Moffat) and Doonie (Dumfries).



**SMALLHOLDER
grown**



A bag of rice can change a life

Individuals and communities across Dumfries and Galloway are amongst the biggest supporters of Kilombero rice in Scotland, according to distributor JTS. Many of our schools, churches and Fairtrade Groups have participated in their 90kg Rice Challenge – this involves selling 90kg of rice which allows a Malawian farmer to send their child to secondary school for a year. During July 2018, people in Kirkcudbright completed their seventh challenge in just five years!



Recognition for Loch Arthur Camphill Community

Loch Arthur Camphill Community's valuable role as the region's Fairtrade Flagship Employer was celebrated in July.

The Regional Fairtrade Steering Group presented Loch Arthur Camphill Community with a Fairtrade Flagship Employer Certificate of Recognition at their Farm Shop and Café.

A Fairtrade Flagship Employer is a significant local workplace that uses Fairtrade products and promotes Fairtrade to customers and staff. It's an essential requirement of a Fairtrade Zone.

Photo shows Helen Fenby of Loch Arthur Camphill Community with members of the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group.

International Fair Trade Charter launched

The International Fair Trade Charter sets out the fundamental values of Fair Trade and highlights the role that Fair Trade plays in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It was initiated by Fairtrade International and the World Fair Trade



Organization and replaces the 2009 Charter of Fair Trade Principles. Leading figures from both networks attended an event in the Scottish Parliament on 25 September 2018 to celebrate its launch.



Dumfries and Galloway renews Fairtrade Zone status

Dumfries and Galloway has successfully renewed its Fairtrade Zone status for the next two years. The Regional Fairtrade Steering Group submitted an application to the Fairtrade Foundation in October outlining their plans to further promote and support Fairtrade until 2020.

Adam Gardner, Communities Campaigns Manager at the Fairtrade Foundation, said: "We're very pleased that Dumfries and Galloway has renewed their Fairtrade Zone status and laid out clear exciting goals to take Fairtrade further. Thanks to the ongoing 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."



Left to right, Rhona Macgregor (Dumfries and Galloway Council), Rosemary Buwert (Chair of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group), Colin Smyth (Chair of the Regional Fairtrade Steering Group), Alison Borthwick (Chair of the Dunscore Fairtrade Group) and Liz Manson (Dumfries and Galloway Council).

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

Fairtrade Fortnight will return in 2019 and will run from 25 February to 10 March. It's the most important time of the year for us all to celebrate Fairtrade achievements, whilst encouraging further commitments from the public, companies and governments to take action for fairer trade.

Next year, Fairtrade Fortnight will focus on cocoa. Farmers of this iconic Fairtrade product have seen prices crash to crisis levels in the last few years, particularly in West Africa where most cocoa is grown. Many farmers, both men and women, are underpaid and exploited. That means they can't earn enough for basic needs, like food and housing, because they don't earn a living income.

The recent drop in cocoa prices means it's more important than ever to remind people why choosing Fairtrade is so important, but also to be honest that certification alone can't fix the complex issues that leave smallholder farmers at the mercy of volatile international markets.

We know that buying more Fairtrade cocoa can kick-start a major change for producer communities, but that we need to encourage others to do more to truly overcome the injustice at the heart of this much-loved product.

A range of new resources and ideas are available on the [Fairtrade Foundation's website](#) to help you get involved in the campaign.

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

✉ packpony@btinternet.com
f www.facebook.com/CastleDouglasFairtradeTown

Dumfries Fairtrade Group

✉ dumfriesfairtrade@yahoo.co.uk
f www.facebook.com/DumfriesFairtrade
t www.twitter.com/FairDumfries
www www.dumfriesfairtrade.org.uk

Dunscore Fairtrade Group

✉ auchenage@gmail.com
f 'Dunscore Fairtrade Group'
t www.twitter.com/fairdunscore
www www.dunscore.org.uk/dunscore-fairtrade-group

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group

✉ kathmnaylor@yahoo.co.uk
f www.facebook.com/Kirkcudbright-Fairtrade-Group

Fairtrade in Dumfries and Galloway Facebook page

Look up 'Dumfries and Galloway Fairtrade'

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Rhona Macgregor

Community Learning and Development Worker

✉ Rhona.Macgregor@dumgal.gov.uk
f www.facebook.com/DumfriesGallowayCouncil
t www.twitter.com/dgcouncil
www www.dumgal.gov.uk

Links

Fairtrade Foundation

✉ mail@fairtrade.org.uk
f www.facebook.com/FairtradeFoundation
t www.twitter.com/FairtradeUK
www www.fairtrade.org.uk

Scottish Fair Trade Forum

✉ info@sftf.org.uk
f www.facebook.com/FairTradeNation
t www.twitter.com/FairTradeNation
www www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk

Future meetings

The next meeting of the Regional Fairtrade Steering Group shall be held on Monday 25 March 2019 in Municipal Chambers, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries. Please get in touch with Rhona Macgregor if you'd like to come along. All are welcome!

The Belties go national!

The latest Fairtrade Beltie to join the herd is Connie McBeltie. Connie was presented to the Scottish Fair Trade Forum at its first Board meeting after the Scottish Fair Trade Campaigner Conference as our thank you for coming to Dumfries.

Staff at the Scottish Fair Trade Forum decided on her name and she lives in their office in Glasgow.

