

Fairtrade in Dumfries and Galloway

Issue 4

Spring 2019

Dumfries Campaigner wins Volunteer of the Year Award!

Judith Milne, a member of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group, won the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2018 Scottish Fair Trade Awards. The Awards are organised by the Scottish Fair Trade Forum and the winners were announced at a special presentation on 29th November at Gavin's Mill in Milngavie.

Praising Judith for her "extraordinary determination, enthusiasm and commitment to Fair Trade" a member of staff from the Forum said, "Judith has been involved in the Fair Trade movement from the very beginning and consistently goes above and beyond to organise events, stalls and meetings to promote Fair Trade and its many benefits. She has been a supporter of Just Trading Scotland for many years and as soon as she heard that the Malawian rice farmers (Howard and Webster) were



going to be in Dumfries this year for the Forum's AGM, she arranged to show them around and organise local press to cover their visit. She has already volunteered to organise an event for Just Trading Scotland's next producer visit in Dumfries!"

The difference Fairtrade makes!

Fairtrade changes people's lives – by guaranteeing a Fairtrade Minimum Price farmers are more income secure and less vulnerable to poverty and as Dumfries and Galloway has a big agricultural sector, we support and understand the importance of that principle.

Fairtrade builds communities – the Fairtrade Premium that buyers pay to the producers is used to improve the infrastructure and services for a wider group of people. That includes some basic things we take for granted, like education, hospitals and clean water supplies.

Fairtrade protects the environment – the Fairtrade Standards include safe and environment friendly practices such as reducing the use of harmful chemicals, greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging wildlife and alternative sources of energy. Our support for Fairtrade is part of our region's Carbon Management Plan.

Fairtrade empowers people – there's greater control over their decisions, collective bargaining and deepening gender equality in Fairtrade businesses. Equality is an important principle to the people in our region and our public organisations and this is one way we can demonstrate that support.



Olivia is a Fairtrade coffee farmer and member of Kagera Co-operative Union (KCU), a group of around 60,000 producers in north-west Tanzania.

'My message to people in the UK is please buy more Fairtrade so you can keep remembering the farmers over here who grow the coffee.'

Dunscore Celebrates 10 Years as a Fairtrade Village

Dunscore recently celebrated its 10th year as a Fairtrade village. Alison Borthwick, Chair of the Dunscore Fairtrade Group, explains the local commitment to Fairtrade that's behind this amazing achievement;

"I'm involved with a fantastic group of folk to work to promote Fairtrade in Dunscore and the local community. The group was established about 11 years ago and we became the first Fairtrade village in Dumfries and Galloway paving the way for other towns to follow. Every year we hold our annual Big Brew in the village hall and church, which over the years has proved to be a huge success.



Alison (centre left) at Dunscore's Big Brew



10th anniversary cake



In Dunscore we have a Fairtrade church, school, pre-school and we support local businesses to promote Fairtrade. The school has just applied for the highest Fairtrade Award - FairAchiever award. Every month members of our Fairtrade group work with the children on Fairtrade topics, the children can all identify Fairtrade and have a good knowledge of the work it does.

This year is our 10th birthday and we held a celebration ceilidh at the school with a birthday cake, haggis, neeps and tatties and lots of dancing - it was a super evening! You may have read our fantastic coverage in the local papers recently and the D&G Life Magazine.

I am very proud of the work we do and everyone involved and all the events we hold are most enjoyable and fun!"



Dunscore Primary School pupils work towards a Fair Achiever Award!

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019



People across Dumfries and Galloway organised and took part in events and activities to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight, which ran from Monday 25 February until Sunday 10 March.

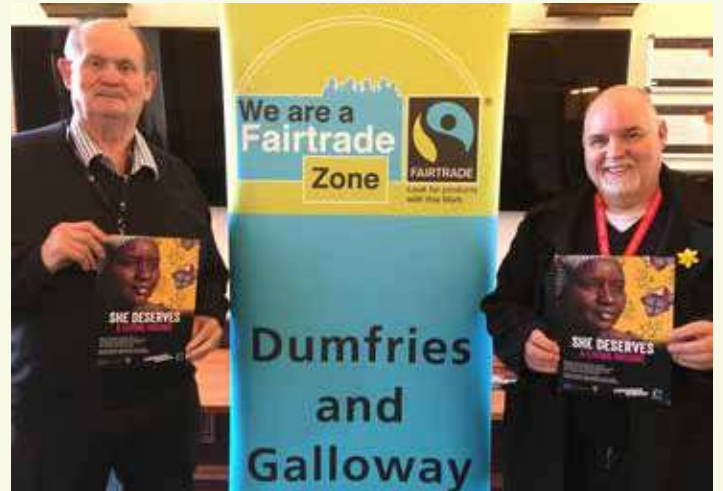
This year's campaign focused on the cocoa industry and its theme, 'she deserves a living income', placed a spotlight on the gender inequality experienced by cocoa farmers.

Colin Smyth MSP, Chair of the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group and Convener of the Cross Party Group on Fair Trade, lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament noting the importance of Fairtrade Fortnight and commending the work of community organisers who held events to mark the occasion

Gary Collins, Superstore Manager, presents a cheque to Ian Macgregor of Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council watched by Rhona Macgregor of Dumfries and Galloway Council

Dumfries and Galloway Council

During February, 600 Fairtrade Fortnight posters were printed and distributed to Council facilities to raise awareness of the campaign amongst staff and members of the public.



Chair Andy Ferguson and Vice Chair John Martin of the Communities Committee showing their support for our Council's promotion of Fairtrade Fortnight!

Langholm's Co-operative Food Superstore Raises Awareness of Fairtrade

During Fairtrade Fortnight, staff at The Co-operative Food Superstore in Langholm raised awareness of Fairtrade amongst their customers by raffling a fantastic hamper full of Fairtrade products which are sold in the store. The raffle raised £180 which was donated to Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council who are currently raising £100,000 to upgrade play and other facilities in Buccleuch Park.

Superstore Manager, Gary Collins, said, "We were delighted to practically demonstrate our commitment to Fairtrade and our local community in this way. The Co-op is committed to Fairtrade, and to changing lives through the Fairtrade products we sell in store. We make sure all the cocoa, bananas, tea and coffee we sell or use as an ingredient are Fairtrade, meaning you can make a difference to producers every time you shop with us".



Castle Douglas

The Castle Douglas Fairtrade Group had a busy day in the 'CD' Co-op on Saturday 2nd March 2019 – supported by the Castle Douglas Co-op Pioneer Bob Shiplake.

As well as chocolate sampling we had a selection of home baking so we certainly did our bit for Fairtrade chocolate sales and promoting how tasty and versatile it can be – the bars made with Fairtrade muesli and Fairtrade honey were a particular hit.



Members of the CD Fairtrade Group, store manager Mark Mullany and Bob Shiplake at the stand

Our 'Fair Lucky Dip' (every ticket wins a prize; you pay £1 and get something to the value of £1 – it's fair you see?!) and Bob's Fairtrade Quiz proved very popular. The winner of the quiz was Penny Lilley who won the fabulous basket of Fairtrade goodies you see in the picture, which were kindly donated by the Co-op.



Members of the CD Fairtrade Group talking to customers about the Quiz

Businesses throughout the town displayed 'She deserves...' posters during the Fortnight; and promoted the Group's event and Fairtrade messages on their Facebook pages. So it was a real town effort and celebration - thanks to all involved!

Dunscore

Dunscore Fairtrade Group held their annual Big Brew in the village hall and church which was, as usual, very well attended!



Dumfries

The Dumfries Fairtrade Group worked with Council staff to organise a screening of 'Chocolate Case' at the Robert Burns Centre. This was an engaging and thoughtful documentary about three affable Dutch journalists' decade-long efforts to end the chocolate industry's reliance on child labour and worker exploitation. The film followed their high profile campaign to expose the lack of progress on workers rights in plantations and public apathy towards modern day slavery; and also their journey from journalists to entrepreneurs as they developed a '100% slave-free' chocolate bar. You can see a short clip of the film on <https://www.takeoneaction.org.uk/film/the-chocolate-case/>. And at the end of the screening, attendees got to try some of the chocolate!



Derek Hextall, Ward Officer for Lochar, with the display in Lochthorn.

We created Fairtrade Fortnight displays in the Customer Service Centres in Lochthorn and Georgetown.

Dumfries Fairtrade Group also held a Craftism event at the Usual Place and a tasting event at The Dumfries Larder, which were enjoyed by all!



Chris Woodness, Ward Officer for Nith, with the display in Georgetown.

Kirkcudbright and round about

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group had an action-packed Fairtrade Fortnight and this year we welcomed a new helper! Erin Mullany was appointed in January as the Co-op Pioneer and she was delighted to join in with our activities.

Fairtrade talks and activities were given at Borgue and Twynholm Primary Schools by one of our members and Erin joined in the activity at Kirkcudbright Primary by bringing samples of Fairtrade foods stocked in the Co-op (the chocolate proved to be a major attraction!).

At Dalbeattie Campus the P5 pupils arranged a Fairtrade breakfast and in the afternoon had a lesson about Fairtrade cocoa. This was followed by a whole Primary School assembly where the children were eager to show that they knew about Fairtrade! In the High School an assembly of S1 and S2 pupils watched a short film and had a brief talk about Fairtrade. A Fairtrade food stall and a stall selling Fairly traded crafts were open in the main assembly area for three days.

Tesco were happy for us to erect a stall in the shop displaying all the Fairtrade goods they stock. We



Erin at Kirkcudbright Primary School



Twynholm Primary School



Discussion at the Tesco stall



Joint stall at Dalbeattie Campus, also featuring Cuddy our shy mascot

manned this stall for two hours one morning and talked to interested customers about Fairtrade.

A Saturday Coffee Morning attracted over sixty customers! There was no set price for entry but a notice at the door indicated that all the proceeds would be sent to the Bursary Fund administered by the Kilombero Rice cultivators in the Karonga district of Malawi. Last year, after discussion with John Riches of Just Trading Scotland, the Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group decided to send all the money it raised in the following twelve months to the bursary fund. The total funds raised at the Coffee Morning were boosted by a raffle and all the prizes were donated by Kirkcudbright shops selling Fairtrade products.

We are now trying to recruit new members and one of our group has designed a poster for display around Kirkcudbright.



Young helpers at the Coffee Morning

Across Scotland

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum organised a visit by Aimable Nshimiye, Managing Director of the Sholi Coffee Co-operative in the Muhanga district of Rwanda. Aimable visited schools and coffee buyers and spoke at events in Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews.



Aimable at the Scottish Fair Trade Forum's office in Glasgow

It also asked its members to share why Fairtrade Fortnight is important to them. One of Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Learning and Development Workers, Rhona Macgregor, said, "The significant impact which Fairtrade makes in the lives of producers is highlighted and celebrated by campaigners within our local communities, regions and nations all year round. Fairtrade Fortnight is important because it provides an annual opportunity to do this on a UK wide basis!"



Rhona Macgregor of Dumfries and Galloway Council with Angela Oakely of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum

Fairtrade Products

It's not all about coffee, bananas and chocolate!

Bala sports balls come in all shapes and sizes – futsal balls, footballs, and rugby balls and coming soon netballs and volleyballs. Football clubs up and down the country and the Homeless World Cup have used them and been really impressed – they are made to the same standards that FIFA use.

The balls are made in Sialkot in Pakistan or in Jalandhar in India. Workers are based in factories or, if they are hand-stitchers, in special rural centres which means they don't have to travel long distances to work and they are part of a co-operative. The use of the 10% Fairtrade premium is decided by a Committee of the workers, and they invest in social development projects in their communities -for example a supply of safe, clean drinking water, free eye tests and subsidised spectacles.



This year is the 10th anniversary of the sale of the first Fairtrade certified olive oil from Palestine.

To celebrate, Zaytoon brought Palestinian Fairtrade farmer Khader Khader and their Palestine Advocacy Officer Taysir Arbasi to the UK for Fairtrade Fortnight. Both attended events in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and Orkney.

Khader Khader



Fairtrade Cocoa Explained

When a co-operative of farmers meets the certification standards set by Fairtrade, and if there's a buyer, it means they can sell their cocoa as Fairtrade. The Fairtrade Minimum Price acts as a safety net, and covers what it costs farmers to grow their crop. When the market price is higher than the Minimum Price, the trader must pay the market price. But if the market price drops, they cannot pay below the Minimum Price.

Farmers also receive the Fairtrade Premium, to invest in business or community projects of their choice. Investments made by cocoa farmers include building a medical lab, school toilets and canteens, and housing for teachers.

The Fairtrade Standards include working in safe conditions, the safe use of chemicals, upholding rights and safeguarding the environment. All members of Fairtrade co-operatives have the chance to make their voice heard.

From 2019, Fairtrade chocolate companies will offer farmers 20 percent more Minimum Price and Premium for their cocoa as part of a commitment to making a living income a reality.

Source: Fairtrade Foundation.





The International Fair Trade Charter

How the Global Fair Trade Movement works to transform trade in order to achieve justice, equity and sustainability for people and planet.

Launched on 25 September 2018

Council Pledges Support for the International Fair Trade Charter

Dumfries and Galloway Council has pledged its support for the International Fair Trade Charter. Initiated by Fairtrade International and the World Fair Trade Organisation and replacing the 2009 Charter of Fair Trade Principles, 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.



Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Group has also pledged its support for the Charter: Colin Smyth MSP, Bridget Wilson and Liz Manson signing up.



Councillor Elaine Murray signing up

The Regional Steering Group and Dumfries and Galloway Council have signed up to the Charter:

1. We acknowledge the International Fair Trade Charter as a common reference document for the global Fair Trade movement.
2. When talking or writing about Fair Trade we will use the approaches explained in the Fair Trade Charter as the basis for explanation or discussion.
3. We understand that the Charter is not a manual of Fair Trade practices or a standard by which the approach of specific organizations can be assessed. We have read and understood the statement in the Charter that "this document cannot therefore be used to justify the Fair Trade claims or credentials of any organisation, business, or network".
4. Accordingly we understand that recognizing the International Fair Trade Charter does not endow us or any of our activities or practices with any Fair Trade status, as this can only be awarded by a recognized Fair Trade certification/accreditation system.
5. We will embrace the diversity of the Fair Trade movement and respect all approaches that are aligned with the Fair Trade Charter. When communicating about specific Fair Trade schemes, we will ensure they are described fairly and accurately.
6. We support the aim of the International Fair Trade Charter to help the Fair Trade movement present its common vision to the wider world.


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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Dumfries Fairtrade Group

 dumfriesfairtrade@yahoo.co.uk

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 www.dunscore.org.uk/dunscore-fairtrade-group

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group

 kathmnaylor@yahoo.co.uk

 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

 www.facebook.com/DumfriesGallowayCouncil

 www.twitter.com/dgcouncil

 www.dumgal.gov.uk

Links

Fairtrade Foundation

 mail@fairtrade.org.uk


 www.facebook.com/FairtradeFoundation

 www.twitter.com/FairtradeUK


 www.fairtrade.org.uk

Scottish Fair Trade Forum

 info@sftf.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/FairTradeNation

 www.twitter.com/FairTradeNation

 www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Regional Fairtrade Steering Group shall be held in Castle Douglas at the end of August 2019 with guest speakers and fairtrade refreshments. Please get in touch with Rhona Macgregor if you'd like to come along. All are welcome!

Would your workplace like to be recognised as World Changer?

Now's your chance to change the world and make a real difference to people's lives – and let everyone know you're doing it!

All you need to do is ensure that your workplace tea, coffee, sugar (etc) is Fairtrade; and that you are socially and environmentally responsible.

You'll get a 'Fairtrade Workplace of World Changers' certificate awarded from the national Fairtrade Foundation at a local event, and that will give you a great profile and enhance your organisation's reputation.

Get in touch with your most local group or go online to www.fairtrade.org.uk/fairtradeinyourworkplace