

Fairtrade

in Dumfries and Galloway



Issue 8

Summer 2025

It's been some time since our last newsletter, but there's been lots going on nationally and locally. Our four Fairtrade Groups have been busy with regular activities as you'll see, and we're supporting national work too. We hope that you enjoy reading all our news and see from the photos that Fair Trade is going strong in our region!

All of our activities are shared live on our socials, so please follow us on the platforms detailed at the end to keep up to date. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Scotland's Fair Trade Nation status renewed

There was pride and joy on 10 March with the official announcement that Scotland has retained its Fair Trade Nation status, following new criteria being developed along with other countries, including Wales and a rigorous assessment process. [External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson MSP](#) welcomed the announcement saying 'It reaffirms our commitment to fairness, social justice, and global solidarity...reflects our values as a country that champions ethical trade, supports producers in the Global South, and takes real action on poverty and inequality. Scotland's Fair Trade Nation status serves as a reminder that trade can be a powerful force for good'

The International Fair Trade Towns Annual Conference



is in Edinburgh on 30 to 31 August. It's only £15, free for young people and travel from our region can be arranged. More information can be found at www.fairtradetowns.org

Fair Trade Fortnight 2025

takes place across the UK on 22 September to 5 October 2025 with the theme 'Be the Change'.

[Fairtrade Fortnight 2025](#)



Campaigning Together

Big Brews

Big Brew coffee mornings were held in Dunscore on 1 March and Kirkcudbright on 15 March. These events are highlights in the Dumfries and Galloway Fairtrade calendar, providing local people with an opportunity to come together and purchase a wide range of Fairtrade products!



The February meeting of their Campaigners Network, for Fair Trade groups and communities across Scotland, looked at and featured our very own Dunscore Group who shared their successes, including their award-winning work with Dunscore Primary School.

There's a strong focus on public sector procurement too, with a national survey on spend by councils and Health Boards repeated at the end of 2024 and results

being published this spring. New guidance has been issued by Scottish Government which it is hoped will help increase the value and volume of fairly traded goods in the future.

And look out for the new trading subsidiary of Scottish Fair Trade – Fair Change Co - coming soon!... So there's a new momentum and great energy!



New UK Parliamentary Group

The former Chief Executive of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, Martin Rhodes, gained a new role as an MP in the last UK Elections. And he wasted no time in setting up a new All Party Parliamentary Group on Fair Trade to raise awareness at Westminster.

Scottish Fair Trade

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum has rebranded as Scottish Fair Trade. They've a fresh new style and a new Chief Executive, Louise Davies, who took over in December and has a great track record in leading UK charities and a strong commitment to social justice and climate change.

Scottish Fair Trade has also published its new strategy which has six aims:

- AIM 1** To ensure widespread awareness of Fair Trade
- AIM 2** To significantly engage different sectors of Scottish society in Fair Trade
- AIM 3** To increase the consumption and production of Fair Trade products
- AIM 4** To gain political support and engagement for Fair Trade
- AIM 5** To promote the role of Fair Trade in challenging inequalities in climate, global trade and society
- AIM 6** To live our values and maintain good governance

International Women's Day

As part of International Women's Day, the council's Fairtrade Beltie 'Cocoa' attended the Staff Network Event in Kirkcudbright, promoting the 'She Deserves' campaign as one way we can help forge a gender equal world.



Dumfries

In February, members of Dumfries Fairtrade Group visited pupils at Loreburn Primary School and answered lots of great questions they had about Fairtrade.



On 20 January, the Group held a very successful open meeting. Those who attended enjoyed an informative discussion with Colin Smyth MSP on the future of Fair Trade in Scotland and beyond!



On 6 January, the Group ran a stall at the Freshers Fair within the University of Glasgow's Dumfries Campus. We're hopeful that the conversations they had resulted in a few New Year resolutions by students and staff to choose Fairtrade!



Dunscore

On 7 December, Dunscore Fairtrade Group held a Christmas Market in Dunscore Church with lots of tea, coffee, baking and craft stalls on offer. The blustery weather didn't stop people from attending and they were met with a very warm welcome and a lovely 'Happy Fairtrade Christmas' banner made by local school pupils!

Indeed, pupils at Dunscore Primary School continue to regularly learn about Fairtrade through the very successful partnership between the school and local Fairtrade Group. Recent topics include Fairtrade footballs, gold, sugar, how money is shared through the supply chain and what products have the Fairtrade Mark (and why some don't).



Kirkcudbright

Feast Café introduces Fairtrade coffee Kirk-coo-brew

Katherine Naylor, from Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group, went to meet Robyn one of the co-owners of Feast Café in Kirkcudbright to discuss their new Fairtrade coffee 'Kirk-coo-brew'. The Group are very excited at this new Fairtrade coffee being available in the café and for sale in the area.

Katherine asked Robyn why they decided to introduce a Fairtrade coffee. Robyn explained that she and Lewie could find no information at all about the previous coffee used and wanted to use an ethical brand. They found their green beans from Aquiares Entre Rios - Costa Rica.

Kirk-coo-brew's website provides information on the coffee plantations. Workers from Aquiares and nearby regions benefit from safe living conditions, on-site housing, childcare, and bi-weekly health check-ups. Aquiares is a leader in environmental sustainability, recognizing the link between agricultural,



environmental, and social health.

They were able to get a small roaster locally, go to 'cupping' sessions, which are similar to tastings and learn how to roast the beans.

Business Gateway were impressed by their business plan and supported them as they moved forward. The coffee is now available at Feast, local restaurant Scally and Scran and the online Galloway Food Hub, and they are looking for a bigger roaster to keep up with demand and expand.

Work in Schools

Katherine has also visited schools across the region to promote Fairtrade.

She spoke to the whole school at an assembly in Gatehouse Primary School, individual classes at Twynholm Primary School where she left follow-



up activities for pupils, and classes at Dunscore Primary School where she showed pupils some of the Fairtrade products she sells and told them about the crafts people who make them!

Katherine was joined by Carol Ryall, Chair of Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group, to speak at a whole school assembly in Kirkcudbright Academy. They also ran a stall selling Fairtrade goods to pupils!



Another Big Brew

On 16 November, the Group held another Big Brew Fairtrade coffee morning at Kirkcudbright Parish Hall, giving local people another opportunity to try and buy Fairtrade products!



Katherine at Dunscore Primary School



Fairtrade Fortnight

FAIRTRADE 9 to 22 September 2024

Fairtrade Fortnight 2024

Thousands of individuals across Britain took part in Fairtrade Fortnight from 9 to 22 September 2024.

The Fairtrade Foundation moved the campaign to September for the very first time as it marked 30 years since Fairtrade products first hit shelves in the UK. Entitled *Be the Change. Choose Fairtrade*, the campaign

emphasised how our shopping choices have contributed to change, allowing farmers and agricultural workers overseas to create a better future.

It was a huge success as almost twice the number of people heard about Fairtrade Fortnight in 2024 compared to the previous three years, and we saw a big boost in Fairtrade sales!

We work with more than

2 MILLION

farmers and workers

Globally, between 1994 and 2022, producers have shared an estimated

£1.7 BILLION

The FAIRTRADE Mark is the most recognised and trusted ethical label in the UK, with

92%

awareness among consumers

We have worked with more than

10,000

local Fairtrade groups and institutions in the UK over the last 30 years

There are currently almost

5,000

Fairtrade products for sale in the UK

BE THE CHANGE



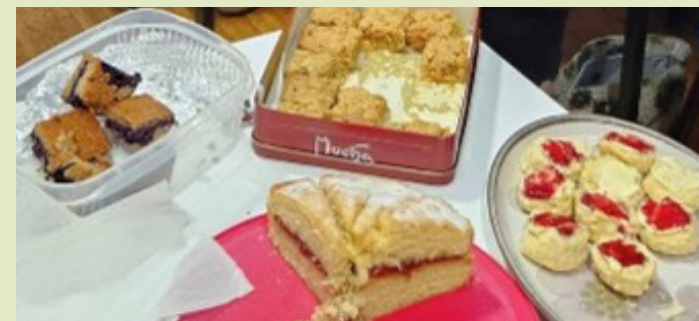
Dumfries

The Dumfries Fairtrade Group hosted Howard Msukwa, a Fairtrade rice farmer from Malawi, in Dumfries Baptist Church on 16 September. Howard is from the cooperative that grows Kilombero rice for True Origin foods. Attendees learned about the impact this fair trade collaboration has had in Malawi, and the impact of climate change on Howard's community.



Dunscore

Pupils from Dunscore Primary School made cakes with Fairtrade sugar and chocolate and held a Fairtrade coffee morning for family and friends on 17 September.



Castle Douglas

The Co-op in Castle Douglas shared information with customers and offered them a taste of their Fairtrade products in store on 21 September.



Castle Douglas Fairtrade work highlighted nationally

A photo of pupils from Castle Douglas High School featured in the Scottish Fair Trade's 2024 Annual Review, which was published in August.



The photo was used to highlight five short films about community campaigning which were produced to mark the 10th anniversary of Scotland as a Fair Trade Nation. One of the films focused on Castle Douglas, specifically the work of pupils to update a directory for locals and visitors detailing where Fairtrade products are served or can be bought in the town.

Fairtrade prizes at Dunscore Gala

Did you see the Dunscore Fairtrade Group's stall at Dunscore Gala in August? If not, you're not alone! They ran a tombola, with mostly Fairtrade prizes, and everything was gone in a flash!



Fair Trade crafts in Kirkcudbright

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group made sure that Fair Trade crafts were among those on sale in Kirkcudbright last summer. Visitors to Kirkcudbright Arts and Crafts Trail purchased a range of products from the Group's stall in the Soaparie Gardens from 2 to 5 August. The Group also participated in Kirkcudbright Craft Fair, selling items at a stall in the Parish Hall on 29 June.



Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Community status renewed!

Kirkcudbright had its Fairtrade Community (formerly Fairtrade Town) status renewed in July!

The renewal is testimony to the enthusiasm of Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group and the other groups that support them, the hard work of local businesses, supermarkets, schools and churches, and of course the support of the community who buy Fairtrade goods and attend the Group's local Fairtrade activities!



Local Fairtrade education is coming up roses!

Fairtrade flowers, roses in particular, were discussed by the Dunscore Primary School Fairtrade Group in May 2024. Pupils learned where Fairtrade flowers are grown, how Fairtrade flowers can have a lower carbon footprint than flowers grown in heated glass houses and what Fairtrade farmers are doing to make their flowers as sustainable as possible.

The same month, pupils at Elmvale Primary School were visited by members of Dumfries Fairtrade Group and given the opportunity to ask them all about Fairtrade!



World Fair Trade Day 2024

Members of the Dunscore Fairtrade Group responded to Scottish Fair Trade's call for photos with the World Fair Trade Day sign and were rewarded with a central location in the national collage highlighting Scotland's commitment to Fairtrade!



Fairtrade shop pops up!

Katherine from the Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group organised a pop-up shop at the Station House in Kirkcudbright during the first weekend in May 2024. Locals and visitors were able to purchase a wide range of Fair Trade food, gifts and homeware, including the recycled rag rug from India which Katherine is holding in this photo.



Big Brews held across the region

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group held a Big Brew in Kirkcudbright Parish Hall on 16 March 2024 to raise awareness of Fairtrade. Visitors enjoyed Fairtrade tea, coffee and cake, and were able to purchase Fairtrade gifts and foods. All the profits raised were donated to [Transform Trade](#).

Dunscore Fairtrade Group held its annual Big Brew in Dunscore Church and Glenriddel Hall on 2 March 2024. As usual, visitors were able to browse a variety of stalls selling Fairtrade, fairly traded and local products. A light lunch and refreshments were also on offer, much of which was homemade and contained Fairtrade products.



Dunscore Primary School pupils hold Wee Brew

A few days before Dunscore's Big Brew, Dunscore Primary School held its annual Wee Brew. Pupils invited their parents and friends to join them for Fairtrade tea and coffee and some delicious baked goods, which the pupils had helped to make.

Pupils sent money raised through the event to Mantchombe Primary School in Malawi. The school was built using the [Fairtrade Premium](#) from sales of Fairtrade sugar that was grown by the community.



Colin Smyth MSP, Chair of the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group, with helpers at Dunscore's Big Brew

Dumfries Fairtrade Group spring into action

In March 2024, the Dumfries Fairtrade Group hung their Fairtrade Town certificate in the Ewart Library entrance for all to see.



Alison Wright of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group with 'Doonie', the Dumfries Fairtrade Beltie, next to the Fairtrade Town certificate at the Ewart Library

The Group organised another screening of Fashion Reimagined at the Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre in Dumfries, which 12 people enjoyed. Rosemary Buwert of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group highlighted the work of Transform Trade which seeks to improve transparency in the fashion industry.

Members of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group were invited to talk to pupils from Loreburn Primary School who were reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. They visited classes in Primary 4 and 5 and used a Tony's Chocoloney bar, which is made up of unevenly sized chunks of chocolate, to explain the inequality in the chocolate industry and the role which Fairtrade plays in addressing this. The pupils and staff were delighted with the Fairtrade chocolate that the Group left for them to enjoy!



Alison Wright and Rosemary Buwert of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group with Loreburn Primary School pupils

Dunscore Primary School goes bananas for Fairtrade!

Bananas are one of the most popular fruits in the world and, in February 2024, the Dunscore Primary School Fairtrade Group learned all about Fairtrade bananas. Members of the Dunscore Fairtrade Group explained to pupils how the price we pay for a Fairtrade banana is shared between the farmers who grow them and the companies that sell them. The pupils also enjoyed making (and eating!) some Fairtrade banana pancakes.



A Fairtrade Christmas...



In Dunscore

The Dunscore Fairtrade Group held a very successful Fairtrade Christmas Market at Glenriddel Hall on 2 December 2023. Those who travelled through the snowy weather to attend enjoyed Fairtrade refreshments and were able to purchase Fairtrade and local products.



In Dumfries

Keen to raise awareness of Fairtrade at Christmas, the Dumfries Fairtrade Group created a Fairtrade banana tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in St John's Church. They also highlighted some of their favourite Fairtrade products, which are available locally, in a series of posts on social media during November and December 2023.

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group hold annual Coffee Morning

The Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group's annual Fairtrade Coffee Morning was held in Kirkcudbright Parish Hall on 18 November 2023. The Group hosted around 90 visitors who enjoyed Fairtrade tea, coffee and homemade cakes, as well as an opportunity to buy Fairtrade gifts and food.

The Group used the event to raise awareness of the unseen appeal by Transform Trade, which highlighted the millions of homeworkers who help make the clothes sold on every high street in the UK and are paid just a few pence for every piece they complete. They were able to donate £342 raised from the event to Transform Trade.



Dunscore Primary School win Scottish Fair Trade Award!

Dunscore Primary School was awarded the 2023 Fair Trade Education Award

The Fair Trade Education Award is awarded to a nursery, school, college, university or other educational setting or educator that has embedded fair trade into global citizenship, learning for sustainability or other teaching and learning.

During 2023, activities with the children in the Dunscore Primary School Fairtrade Group included making Fairtrade masks, baking with Fairtrade ingredients, tasting Fairtrade coffee, welcoming their parents to a Fairtrade Wee Brew, creating a Fairtrade banner and designing fliers about Fairtrade school uniforms.

Following the online award ceremony, Colin Smyth MSP, Chair of the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Fairtrade Steering Group, presented the award certificate to the whole school.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this very successful Fairtrade school and community partnership!



Dunscore and Malawi partnership

On the Air Waves

Matthew Aitken of the Dunscore Fairtrade Group, along with his wife Kath, recorded a conversation with Charles Chavi from the Kasinthula Cane Growers Association in the Chikwawa district of Malawi. They chatted about sugar production in Malawi, climate change, Fairtrade in Dunscore and Scotland and how Fairtrade has changed lives in Charles' community. The recording features in a podcast series supported by the Scotland Malawi Partnership. You can listen to it on the people to people podcast website (episode 5).

On Film

In October 2023, Dunscore Fairtrade Group supported Dunscore Primary School pupils to learn about

Mantchombe Primary School in Malawi, which was built using the Fairtrade Premium from sales of Fairtrade sugar that was grown by the local community. They discussed the differences between the schools and worked with I Film U to make a film about Dunscore for the pupils in Malawi.



Dumfries Academy hold Fairtrade Coffee Morning



Pupils from Dumfries Academy held a Fairtrade Coffee Morning in St George's Church Hall on 30 September 2023 to raise funds for a trip to Kenya. As well as stalls and a raffle, the event included live musical performances by pupils!

Promoting Fairtrade through flowers



A Flower Festival was held at the start of September 2023 to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of Dunscore Parish Church, and the Dunscore Fairtrade Group showcased a beautiful floral display.

Fairtrade promoted at Dunscore Gala

Fairly traded products by True Origin, were on sale to visitors at the Dunscore Gala in August 2023.

Visitors to the Gala were also given the opportunity to try to throw a bean bag through a giant Fairtrade Mark. Anyone who managed to get one bean bag through the hole received a small bag of Fairtrade Maltesers, and those who succeeded in getting three through were entered into a draw for a box of Maltesers!

Each adult received a leaflet about Dunscore Fairtrade Village and the importance of Fairtrade, so no-one went away empty-handed.



True Origin food was also on sale at Dunscore Church's Repair Café in July.

Fairtrade Sports Balls

Bala Sport, who produce a range of sports balls, changed hands in 2023 but has promised to continue to produce the high-quality balls that it's become known for.

Pupils at Penpont Primary School received a Bala Sport Fairtrade football at a Fairtrade themed assembly in September 2023. The football was funded from previous Fairtrade Fortnight sales of Steilhead Cider and presented by June Harmer and Matthew Aitken of Dunscore Fairtrade Group.



Following a donation of Bala Sport Fairtrade footballs to Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council in the summer of 2023, young people in Langholm have been delighted to put them to use at the new set of football goals in the town's Buccleuch Park!

Above: Pupils exploring Fairtrade's role in the supply chain during their assembly

Dumfries renews its Fairtrade status!

Dumfries Fairtrade Group successfully renewed the town's Fairtrade status in the summer of 2023!

An event was held on 21 August 2023 to celebrate the achievement, which included a talk by Khandu Joseph about her craft business Asha Gifts.

Colin Smyth MSP, Chair of the Regional Fairtrade Steering Group, and Khandu Joseph of Asha Gifts



Award success for Noblehill Primary School

In June 2023, Noblehill Primary School received the **FairAchiever Award** from the Fairtrade Foundation for the second time!

The Award is the highest which any school can achieve and involves adopting a Fairtrade policy, carrying out a learner audit, embedding Fairtrade into learning, using Fairtrade products and undertaking two learning challenges.

It's testimony to the hard work of staff, pupils and the wider community, and their commitment to Fairtrade. Indeed, such is the commitment that the school provides the opportunity to purchase Fairtrade uniforms too!

Congratulations to all involved!





Greener Events Toolkit promotes Fairtrade

Dumfries and Galloway Council launched Scotland's first [Greener Events Toolkit](#) in June 2023 to support the work of festivals and events organisers across the region.

Produced in collaboration with the Southern Uplands Partnership Services Ltd and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, the toolkit helps organisers reduce their carbon emissions and plan for their long-term sustainability. It also highlights that festivals and events are a great way to showcase Fairtrade and provides information about sourcing Fairtrade products.



Fairtrade education support for school staff

Dumfries and Galloway Council held its 3rd annual Learning for Sustainability Conference at the end of May 2023.

Once again, Fairtrade was highlighted to staff. Information about becoming a Fairtrade school and purchasing Fairtrade cotton school uniforms was provided, and teaching resources were shared.

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum joined with [WOSDEC](#) and [Koolskools](#) to host a live session called 'Fairtrade, Fashion and You' about how the clothes we buy impact the people involved in their production and the planet. They also created a resource called '[Fairtrade, Sustainability and Global Citizenship](#)' for delegates, which explains what Fair Trade is and why it matters to global citizens.

Fairtrade on Film...

Dumfries Fairtrade Group worked with the Robert Burns Film Theatre to promote two films linked to Fairtrade which were showing in June 2023.

[Fashion Reimagined](#) was shown on 16 June and documents the work of fashion designer Amy Powney as she sets out to create a sustainable and ethical collection. The screening was followed by a talk from Dumfriesshire based artist Denise Zygadlo on her approach to garments and mending.

To celebrate [Big Green Week](#), [Queen of Katwe](#) was shown on 24 June with members of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group providing the introduction and briefly explaining how we can make our world a better place. Theatre goers then enjoyed the film which tells the story of chess champion Phiona from Kampala.

Fair Trade Nation reception

A reception in the Scottish Parliament to celebrate Scotland's 10th anniversary as a Fair Trade Nation was held on 24 May 2023 and hosted by Colin Smyth MSP, Convener of the Cross Party Group on Fairtrade.

There was a strong Dumfries and Galloway presence at the event as Colin, who chairs our Regional Fairtrade Steering Group, was joined by Group members, Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager at Dumfries and Galloway Council, and Matthew Aitken of Dunscore Fairtrade Group and his wife Kath.



World Fair Trade Day 2023

'Reimagining the Economy: Regenerative Businesses for the Future' was the theme of World Fair Trade Day, which was held on 13 May in 2023.

To mark the occasion, the Regional Fairtrade Steering Group launched a bumper edition of this newsletter, Dumfries and Galloway Council shared the newsletter on social media and Dumfries Fairtrade Group held a very successful Town Trail.

Copies of the Town Trail quiz were available from the Ewart Library and Flourish gift shop, and answers to the questions were displayed in the windows of town centre shops and cafes that sell or use fairly traded products.



Some of the Fairtrade prizes






Contact us

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





Castle Douglas Fairtrade Group

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Links

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