

Fairtrade in Dumfries and Galloway

Issue 5

Autumn 2019

25 Years of the Fairtrade Mark



It's a quarter of a century since the Fairtrade Mark launched in the UK. That makes it the same age as The Lion King film, Eurotunnel and the TV series 'Friends'!

More than 1.66 million farmers and workers in over 1,200 producer organisations around the globe are now part of Fairtrade and over 6,000 products carry the Fairtrade Mark.

The Fairtrade Mark is a registered certification label for products sourced from producers in the developing world – a set of Fairtrade Standards have to be met to be able to use the Mark, for example payment of a Living Wage to workers, no child exploitation, gender equity and collective decision-making. When you buy a product with this Mark on it, a small percentage of the cost goes to a 'Fairtrade premium' and this is used for community projects like improved water supplies, schools and hospitals.

An amazing 93% of UK shoppers recognise the Mark and 83% trust it when deciding if a product is ethical.

Shoppers, community groups, schools, places of worship, businesses - and of course the farmers and workers themselves – have all played a part



Colin Smyth MSP, Chair of the D&G Steering Group and Charles Sim Chair of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum and other attendees at the Castle Douglas event



Volunteers at the Kirkcudbright Coffee Morning; their special cake

There's been celebrations across the region for this significant milestone – the D&G Regional Fairtrade Steering Group held an open meeting in Castle Douglas with keynote speaker Charles Sim, Chair of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, a Traidcraft stall and Fairtrade refreshments; the Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group held a coffee morning, complete with a special cake; and on 21st November 2019 Dumfries and Galloway Council unanimously supported a Motion, written especially for the 25th anniversary of Fairtrade Mark. The full text is available on the Council's website (www.dumgal.gov.uk) with the Council commitment as follows:

- Renew its commitment to work with local communities to maintain Fairtrade Zone Status for our region.
- Renew its support for the International Fair Trade Charter
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight
- Support local Fairtrade Schools, and promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools.
- Celebrate businesses championing Fairtrade products in the local community
- Continue to provide opportunities to order Fairtrade goods through our procurement arrangements.

Councillors were also presented with Fairtrade tartan items – a scarf for Elaine Murray, Leader; a tie for Rob Davidson, Depute Leader and a straw holder (with a bamboo straw in it!) for the Environment Champion Dougie Campbell. Bala Fairtrade sports balls were also presented to the Chair Andy Ferguson and Vice Chair John Martin of the Communities Committee for use in DG1



Dumfries and Galloway Councillors with their Fairtrade tartan items and Bala Fairtrade sports balls

Fairtrade promoted at the Annual Beautiful Scotland Awards



Fairtrade was promoted at the 2019 Beautiful Scotland Awards, which were hosted by Dumfries and Galloway Council and held at the Easterbrook Hall in Dumfries on 12 September.



Councillor Rob Davidson, Civic Head and Depute Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council, highlighted the region's Fairtrade Zone status to attendees and shared the importance of supporting Fairtrade, not only for ethical reasons but as an important action in relation to the Climate Emergency. Fairtrade products featured in the afternoon refreshments and the dinner, served to around 200 people.

The Regional Fairtrade Steering Group hosted an exhibition stand which was popular with attendees, allowing them to pick up information about Fairtrade and purchase Fairtrade products. Liz Manson and Judith Mylne of the Group presented a new Fairtrade Beltie to Lindsay Montgomery, Chair of Keep Scotland Beautiful. Their interim Chief Executive, Tim Brock, chose 'Greta' from a selection of names suggested by staff.



Greta the Beltie

National Updates

Scottish Fair Trade Campaigner Conference 2019

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum held their annual Campaigner Conference on 7th September in Motherwell.

Yvonne Weir (Enterprise Manager at North Lanarkshire Council) and St Stephen's Primary School opened the event with presentations on their Fair Trade activities in North Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire's Fairtrade Zone campaign.

Hazel Oakley (member of the Fair Trade Young People's Network Scotland) discussed the role of the Network and the future of Fair Trade campaigning in Scotland, and Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum) gave an overview of Fair Trade activities in Scotland during the past year.

The theme of the event was 'Fair Trade and Gender Equity' and speakers from Lovethatstuff, the Co-op and the Fairtrade Foundation spoke about Fair Trade practices and partnerships that are being implemented throughout supply chains to empower women.

Also, delegates were given an opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Government's Review of Fair Trade sales through workshops delivered by the independent consultants carrying out the review.

Scottish Fair Trade Forum Vice-Chair Appointment

Liz Manson, Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Planning and Engagement Manager, was elected Vice-Chair of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum Board on 19 September. The Forum works on several issues that the Council is committed to such as the living wage, climate change and gender equality. It also supports the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Fair Trade which is chaired by our local MSP Colin Smyth.



Martin Rhodes, the Scottish Fair Trade Forum's Chief Executive, welcoming Liz to the role.

Local Updates

Castle Douglas

Celebrating World Fairtrade Day

Working with the local Member Pioneer, the Group ran a stall in the Castle Douglas Superstore. It included a 'Fair Lucky Dip' where participants received an item that was the same value as the price charged, a quiz and a competition to name the Co-op Beltie! The stall attracted many people and helped raise awareness of Fairtrade. The winning name was Bluebell and the winners received a hamper of Co-op goodies as their reward.



Bluebell the Beltie, in the Co-op colours of turquoise and white, on the stall

Dumfries

Second Nature Outlet Opening Soon



Dumfries based business, Second Nature, is celebrating its return to the town centre following a four-year absence. The company specialises in the import and retail of furnishings and homeware, with an emphasis on ethical sources and the use of recycled materials. It believes passionately in the principles of Fair Trade and Environmental Protection and all its products are carefully selected for their Fair Trade, eco-friendly and natural qualities. Most are sourced from suppliers who are registered with the British Association for Fair Trade Shops.

Over recent years, Second Nature has focussed on the development of its online stores, but it recently jumped at the chance to 'get physical' again and to operate from a historic building in Dumfries – the Former Baptist Church in Newall Terrace.

Like many small businesses, Karen started up in her spare room. For years she worked at it as a hobby alongside her main job with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Her partner Clayton (himself a full-time firefighter in Dumfries) also helped on his days off.

Sales continued to grow and, in 2013, Karen gave up her job at SEPA to focus on the business full-time. They named the company Second Nature and opened their first shop in Dumfries (locals might remember them being upstairs in the Monaghan's 'Thistle Galleries' in Irish Street).

Over the next two years, Karen and Clayton worked the physical and the online shop. Following a visit to India, they also began to import their own goods

and, by 2015, they needed a bigger space to handle the increased stock and customer base. Unfortunately, despite the high number of vacant town centre premises, there were no affordable buildings or rental for the sort of space they needed. Instead, Second Nature moved out to Heathhall Industrial Estate where extra storage and operating space was available.

The business continued to grow but, shortly after the move to Heathhall, Karen's Dad was diagnosed with Alzheimers and he soon needed regular care. Prioritising her Dad, Karen decided to outsource the storage and manual operations to a specialist company in Glasgow. This turn of events meant that Second Nature was, once again, being run from Karen's home but, with the right partners and logistics in place, sales continued to grow, including an unexpected surge in overseas customers. With most of the day to day operations being handled elsewhere, Karen was able to spend precious time with her Dad until he passed away in late 2017.

From thereon, Karen and Clayton dreamt of returning their business base to Dumfries town centre and occupying physical premises again. Luckily, they did not have to wait too long and, in October 2018, Second Nature became the proud new owners of the Former Baptist Church.

Since picking up the keys, Second Nature has employed three members of staff and, with five pairs of hands now available, the team has begun developing its plans for the building including a packing and distribution area, a product photo studio, a browsing area and an upstairs venue for hosting small events.

Their first event is a 'Baking and Browsing' day which will be held on Saturday 7th December between 11.30am and 3.30pm. There will be a Fair Trade Food stand and an Oxfam stand. Tea and cake will be served with donations collected for the Fairtrade Foundation.

Noblehill Primary School Awarded FairAchiever Status

Noblehill Primary School was delighted to gain a FairAchiever Award at the start of the school year. The award is the result of two years of work by the school's annually elected Fairtrade Group.

Teacher and Fairtrade Group Co-ordinator, Mrs Fiona Boyom, stated that "everyone has worked hard to ensure that the whole school community knows what the Fairtrade logo stands for and how the work of the Fairtrade Foundation benefits farmers in developing countries. Fairtrade links in well to inter-disciplinary learning and global citizenship. The Fairtrade work done counted towards the school gaining its fourth Green Eco Flag last year and continues to work in tandem with on-going eco work and our focus on being a Rights Respecting School. We have also established links with the Dumfries Fairtrade Group and local Traidcraft representative.



Staff and pupils pictured with Rosie Rutherford of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group

The Fairtrade Group meets regularly and carries out different activities over the year. The main focus is during Fairtrade Fortnight, where every class in school is given a specific Fairtrade topic to research and focus on. Pupils enjoy this chance to share learning and take part in fun competitions too.

As a school we have designed posters and T-shirts to advertise Fairtrade, sold Kilombero rice from Malawi as part of the '90Kg Send A Child To School Project', visited Tesco to find out what Fairtrade products they sell, collected and sorted Fairtrade packaging, made Fairtrade fruit kebabs, played boardgames, sold Traidcraft snacks and goods at our annual Christmas Fair and Spring Barbecue and held a competition to see which class could collect the most Fairtrade logos from packaging. With the profit made from our sales, the school bought a Fairtrade football and invited another local school along for a friendly Fairtrade Match. Fairtrade bananas were provided for refreshment by neighbouring Aldi supermarket and pupils designed Fairtrade snack-bags for the guests. News and information is displayed on the Fairtrade Noticeboard in school and through the school's newsletter and website. The school also has a Fairtrade Policy and uses/promotes Fairtrade products whenever possible.

A new Fairtrade Group has just been elected for this year and the pupils are excited to continue the good work in new challenges ahead. We are very proud to be a FairAchiever School!"



Fairtrade activities at Noblehill Primary School

Dunscore

This summer has seen a great Fairtrade achievement and several fun Fairtrade activities in Dunscore. All designed to spread the word about how we can help people in developing countries by making small changes in the choices that we make when shopping.

Dunscore Primary School awarded FairAchiever status

Dunscore Primary School led the way by achieving the top school Fairtrade award. They are now a FairAchiever School – joining the small, elite group holding this award.

Achieving this accolade has taken several years, working through the Fairtrade School awards starting with FairAware which was closely followed by FairActive. While working towards the top, FairAchiever award, the children have learned how Fairtrade benefits the farmers, producers and workers in developing countries and have worked on very many activities along the way. They have organised Fairtrade events, carried out audits of Fairtrade products in the school kitchen and staff room, completed a survey of Fairtrade awareness of all the children in the school, baked, created and had a lot of fun!

They received the FairAchiever certificate from Colin Smyth MSP at a celebratory assembly. But the school Fairtrade journey hasn't ended with the award and, this term, the children in the Fairtrade Group have teamed up with Dunscore Church (which is a Fairtrade Church) to tackle a 90 kilo rice challenge. Every 90 kilos of Kilombero fairly traded rice that is sold makes enough money for the farming community in Malawi to send a child to high school for a year. Sales are going well!



Colin Smyth MSP and Chair of the Regional Fairtrade Steering Group presents the FairAchiever certificate to John Carter, Partnership Head Teacher.



Dunscore Primary School pupils

Other Fairtrade activities

In addition to supporting the school Fairtrade team, Dunscore Fairtrade Village entered a Fairtrade Tattie Bogle (scarecrow) in the village Gala competition, ran the cafe at the Allanton World Peace Festival and spent an evening tasting Fairtrade wine. It's not all hard work being involved in Fairtrade in Dunscore!



Fairtrade wine tasting



The Fairtrade Tattie Bogle

Kirkcudbright

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group focused on two key events this summer and highlighted the value of Fairtrade work to residents and many visitors to the region.

The first was the town's annual Art & Crafts Trail; a well-established four-day event. In addition to selling gifts and food, the Group's popular children's stall provided Fairtrade hats and colouring activities. It also achieved yet another Just Trading Scotland's 90 Kilo Rice Challenge!



The children's stall

The Group also attended the first stage of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain cycle race, which finished in Kirkcudbright. It created a community display that included Fairtrade model bikes made from recycled

materials and highlighted how the Fairtrade Premium has been used to purchase bikes in different countries. In Ghana, children have been supplied with pushbikes so they could travel to school more easily. In Malawi, bicycle ambulances have been purchased to provide essential medical services in hard to reach rural areas. The Group also sold foods and gifts at a stall in the Race Village.



The Group's community display

Fairtrade Gift ideas

The coming months see a whole range of faith celebrations including Christmas, Hannukkah, Bodhi and Winter Solstice – so a perfect opportunity to buy Fairtrade gifts for friends and family; or maybe the dark mornings and nights or the start of a new year mean it's time to treat yourself?! Here's a few suggestions from the Fairtrade Foundation:

1. **Old Hamlet Fairtrade Spice Mix for Hot Mulled Cider or Non-Alcoholic Punch** – available in Royal Stuart tartan calico bags, with Fairtrade sugar, cinnamon, cloves and allspice based on a family recipe and made in North Yorkshire. Price £3.85 a bag (4 sachets in each) and available from www.Steenbergs.co.uk
2. **Arena Flowers Bouquets** – Fairtrade roses and sunflowers in a range of spectacular winter selections from £25.99 to £61. Available from www.arenaflowers.com
3. **Cocoa loco Milk Chocolate Fairies** – made from organic certified chocolate, palm oil free, eco-packaging and handmade with love! Priced at £4.79 a box from www.cocoaloco.com
4. **Fairtrade Café Liqueur** – finest Fairtrade arabica coffee beans from Mexico, slow roasted and then diffused into a deep and luxurious liqueur. Available at £19 from Waitrose www.waitrose.com and a number of independent retailers
5. **Live Fair Box** – every three months a box will arrive with tips for living fairly, recipes and treats from Fairtrade brands like Percol and Clipper and messages from Fairtrade farmers. £8 a month available from action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/47899/donate/1?ea.tracking.id=sbytnxix
6. **Bala Sport Balls** - high quality, hand or machine stitched or made with new hybrid and thermal bonding technology and carry the Fairtrade Mark. A small selection of footballs in different sizes and colours are available priced at £9 each from the Castle Douglas Fairtrade Group – contact Elisabeth.Manson@btinternet.com on 0779 604 4903.

Ben Macpherson MSP, Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development with Angus Coull of Bala Sport



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

 www.facebook.com/DumfriesFairtrade

 www.twitter.com/FairDumfries

 www.dumfriesfairtrade.org.uk

Dunscore Fairtrade Group

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 <https://dunscore.org.uk/dunscore-fairtrade-group.html>

Kirkcudbright Fairtrade Group

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 www.facebook.com/Kirkcudbright-Fairtrade-Group-788300664631364/

Fairtrade Dumfries and Galloway

 www.facebook.com/fairtradedumfriesandgalloway

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Dumfries and Galloway Council

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 www.facebook.com/DumfriesGallowayCouncil

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 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 March 2020. Please get in touch with Rhona Macgregor if you'd like to come along – everyone is welcome!

@dgfairtrade

The Regional Steering Group now has a Twitter account – please follow us! We are following local Fairtrade groups who also have an account (Dunscore and Dumfries), our Employer Champion Loch Arthur Camphill and a range of UK and international Fairtrade organisations.

The dates of Fairtrade Fortnight in 2020 are Monday 24 February to Sunday 8 March - details of the theme and materials are soon to be available. There were 4000 campaigner events in 2019 reaching 1 million people so it's a big event!