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a **better deal**
for Third World
Producers

STOCKPORT

FAIRTRADE

www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

GROUP

INTRODUCTION

There have been several events since our last newsletter which have serious implications for Fairtrade and it is becoming increasingly important to do whatever we can to ensure the poorest communities in the world are not forgotten.

As the SFTG chair, Sheila Townsend, mentioned in her annual report, "...our work doesn't ease up – it's absolutely vital...that we keep campaigning. The very survival of those who produce the goods that we take for granted depends on it."

Take a look at the World Development Movement website (www.wdm.org.uk) to read about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the use being made of this partnership by international companies to impose self-interested environmental regulations as they see fit.

But, locally, we carry on as best we can.

Connect With Us!

There are now even more ways to connect with Stockport Fairtrade Group. We have a Facebook page (search for Stockport Fairtrade Group) which is updated with the latest news from the group.

We also have a twitter feed, and our name is @Stockportff

We would love to hear your views on our Fairtrade Fair, so please use the hashtag #stockportffair

SFTG 10th Annual Fair

The SFTG fair has grown rapidly into Stockport's Fairtrade event of the year, loved by visitors and traders alike. Stockport College continues to provide a very suitable and convenient venue for the fair, being centrally located with good car parking and large areas for stalls and refreshments. Find out more about the work of one of this year's traders...



Manchester Palestine Solidarity Campaign

Manchester Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) is a group of people in Greater Manchester who are deeply concerned about the plight of the Palestinian people. We are committed to supporting their struggle for self-determination and are affiliated to the national Palestine Solidarity Campaign, based in London. Manchester PSC is a secular, non-party political group established to support the Palestinian people in their efforts.

Palestinians suffer systematic oppression within Israel and its Occupied Territories. Over four million live under Israeli occupation - in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (2.5 million) and in the Gaza Strip (1.6 million).

Another 1.3 million live as third class citizens in the state of Israel. Almost six million Palestinians are scattered across the world today. Many were expelled from their homes and land in 1948 and 1967 and they have never been allowed to return.

We campaign for their right to return in accordance with international law with Jerusalem as their capital and for

the illegal occupation of the occupied territories to be lifted.

The goods we sell on the stall are sourced in Palestine and include the famous Zaytoun Olive Oil and soap, traditional Palestinian ceramics, embroideries made by women's cooperatives and dates from the Jordan Valley. Our support helps farmers and their families sustain their economy.

The profit from sales is returned to Palestine by supporting projects in West Bank and Gaza, e.g. providing a fully equipped vehicle as a mobile eye clinic, assisting women political prisoners with legal aid and personal items, a school for the blind in Bethlehem, financial support for women's scholarship funds and medical facilities for the Middle East Children's Alliance in Gaza."

So, make sure you visit this stall at the fair this year and support a very worthwhile cause, whilst buying something which will be much appreciated by the receiver, even if that's you.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

OUR FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2014 EVENT - WHAT MAKES BANANAS FAIR?

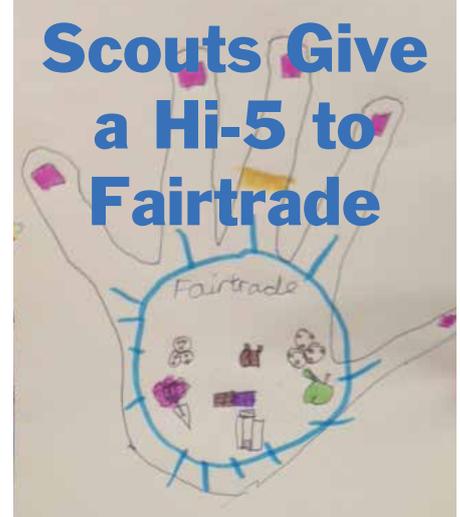


Juliet Arku-Mensah, came to KRO Bar in Heaton Moor on Sunday 2nd March 2014 to talk about her involvement in Fairtrade banana farming and production in Ghana.

Juliet works for Volta River Estates Ltd., which was one of the first banana plantations to receive Fairtrade status. The Fairtrade premium that the plantation earns is spent on vocational training and supporting schools locally.

This has meant that local children have been awarded scholarships to help them remain in education up to university level. Workers can now access health insurance and free medication, to name just a few benefits that Fairtrade status has brought to their community.

After a Q & A session, Juliet joined members of Stockport Fairtrade group for a few photos, before she was whisked off to her next Fairtrade event!



Members of the Scout Movement from all over Greater Manchester attended their annual retreat at Linnet Clough, Mellor in May 2014.

Stockport Fairtrade group was invited to run activities as an opportunity for the young people to learn about global issues and their role as scouts in our global community.

Boys and girls designed their own 'hi-5 to Fairtrade' paper hands, which many of the children adorned with pictures of the range of Fairtrade products available. Others tested their knowledge with a banana quiz and a coffee grower's story puzzle.

It was great to hear and see how knowledgeable the young people were on Fairtrade. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the day, despite the very persistent rain and rising mud, which failed to dampen the children's spirits too much!!

Other Fairtrade Fortnight Events

Our Schools Liaison member, Ann, gave a presentation at a Mellor school and SFTG secretary, Cat, gave a presentation on the group's work at a Co-operative group event on Fairtrade wine.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15
Stockport Fairtrade Group 10th Annual Fair,
Stockport College. 10.30am-4pm.

MONDAY FEB. 23 - SUNDAY MARCH 8
Fairtrade Fortnight

This follows hard on the heels of the Christmas season and the group have not yet decided what type of activity they'll undertake to mark this national fortnight of Fairtrade events.

Come and join us and help decide what to do next year.

AGM at Tiviot Dale Methodist Church on 10th July 2014

Although there was a poor attendance at our 2014 AGM, once the official business was over, we enjoyed a demonstration given by SFTG member, Emily, of a variety of fairly traded Body Shop products. Emily will be at the 2014 fair, so visitors will have the opportunity to view and buy these products there.

There is still a vacancy for someone to help out with press and publicity, so if you, or someone you know, would like to take this opportunity, please get in touch. New members in any capacity are always welcome.