

STOCKPORT

# FAIRTRADE

[www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk)

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GROUP

## Supermarket Checkout

The results of our short supermarket survey are in... not many of them, but enough to get an idea about just how many, or how few, Fairtrade food items are readily available in the local supermarket.

In each store we checked:

- 'Basic items stocked' - tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, bananas

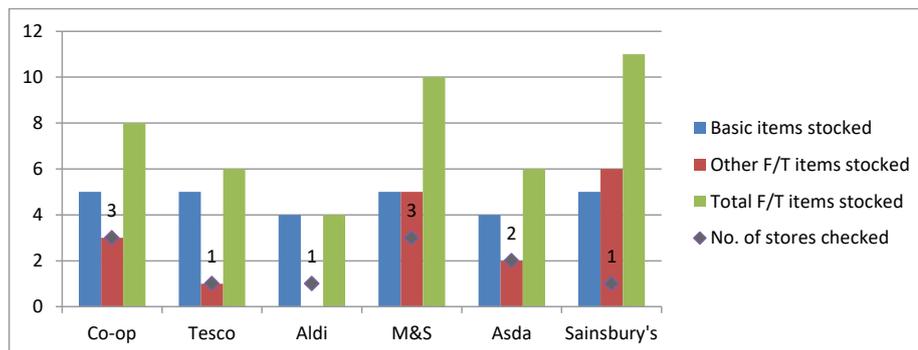
- 'Other F/T items stocked' - these included jams/preserves, wine, ice cream, cocoa/drinking chocolate, snack bars, coconut oil, speciality teas, vanilla pods, nuts and dried fruit

'Basic items stocked' - M&S, the Co-op, Sainsbury's and Tesco stores stocked all five basic Fairtrade items. Asda and Aldi stores did not appear to stock Fairtrade sugar.

'Other F/T items stocked' - Sainsbury's was

top of the list with an extra six Fairtrade food items, followed by an extra five at M&S and three at Co-op stores. Aldi stocked no additional lines. The most popular other items were wine, cocoa/drinking chocolate and ice cream.

Based on our very small survey on some of the Stockport supermarkets, the SFTG verdict is that, whilst a few seem to be trying, there is plenty of room for improvement by all of them.



### STOCKPORT COUNCIL

At a recent steering group meeting between SFTG members and a cross-party selection of councillors, various topics were discussed relating to achieving a more obvious profile for Fairtrade within the council. This will reflect the importance of the Fairtrade Borough status of Stockport, a status which is

now due for renewal.

A draft renewal document is currently being worked on by SFTG members and will be submitted to the Fairtrade Foundation, following agreement between SFTG and SMBC.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**'IT'S TIME TO PUT FAIRTRADE IN YOUR BREAK'** : the theme for Fairtrade Fortnight 2017  
MON 27 Feb - SUN 12 MARCH 2017

Last year's 'pop-up stall' in Stockport train station was so successful that SFTG members are going to be there again on both Saturday mornings (4 and 11 March) of the fortnight, giving out samples and leaflets and sharing some information about the Fairtrade movement with passengers.

Other plans include having a stall in Stopford House restaurant and supplying Aquinas College and local Co-op stores with Fairtrade literature for their students and customers.

### SFTG Fair 2017 - save the date

It's still a while off, but this year's fair will be held on Saturday 25 November at Stockport Guildhall, so put the date in your diary now.

### WHERE TO FIND US

If you would like to get involved, please come along to our next meeting at 6.30pm on Thursday 23 March at Stockport Labour Club, Heaton Chapel, SK4 1QP.

If you want some more information, please get in touch.

# SFTG fair 2016 - all change

**T**he annual fair has been held at Stockport College for around ten years, so it was a bit of a leap into the unknown when SFTG decided it was time to change and chose Stockport Guildhall as the venue for the 2016 fair.

The event was supported by Unison who provided generous financial help and by the Co-operative who donated many of the superb raffle prizes.

Musical entertainment was provided by St. John's Primary School steel band, who gave their first public performance at the fair, and the Manchester Community Choir, who treated us to a variety of well known and seasonal songs.

As usual, our band of volunteers helped advertise the fair, spread the word on social media, helped on the day, donated cakes and attended the event.

Thanks are due to all the above for making the 2016 fair such a success.

The majority of the stallholders were very pleased with their sales, which helps them continue to purchase Fairtrade items from communities throughout the world who rely on those sales for their livelihood.



We asked a stallholder and a customer what they thought about the new venue:

Mary Pease of Tinkuy Peru had this to say: "My sales were well up on last year; they were the second highest I've ever had at a Fair Trade fair. It was certainly nice to be on the ground floor. I only saw the notice about not bringing your own drinks after I had some coffee from my flask. I was disappointed to be unable to get a cup of tea around 3pm when the fair was open until 4pm. I was sorry to miss the music, as it was in the other room, but it may be better like that, so those who want to listen can go to the appropriate room and those who don't can carry on shopping.



It was difficult packing up and getting out within 30 mins. of the fair finishing. You often make sales right at the end so don't want to pack up too early. However, I don't know if this is a requirement at the Guildhall and, if all else is better there, we should probably just put up with it."

Customer, Jenny Fairbanks, and her husband, Bruce commented:

"Our visit was rather brief, but we thought the entrance at the Guildhall was warm, welcoming and accessible and it compared favourably with the previous venue. The catering facilities seemed a little cramped and, initially, there seemed to be limited seating until we found the other room, where we thought the musical performances were very enjoyable. As always, there was a good range of stalls and we liked the provision of the children's corner. Personally, we felt that Stockport College provided a larger space for the stalls, but this did not prevent us from making a number of purchases! On balance we felt that the new venue was a good move."



## Connect With Us!

There are lots of ways to get in touch:-

Web: [www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk)

Email: [info@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:info@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk)

School email: [schools@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:schools@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk)

Tel: 0161 442 4024 or 0161 427 8744 or 07709 544535



Facebook: search for Stockport Fairtrade Group



Twitter: our name is @Stockportft



Overall, it seems that stallholders, customers and SFTG members considered the 2016 fair at the new venue a success.

Everyone liked the ease of access, parking, comfortable seating, warmth and musical performances. Negative feedback was mainly about the difficulty in getting refreshments at particularly busy times and the extremely rapid exit required at the end of the fair.

For the 2017 fair some of the changes we'll be hoping to make include some adjustments to the layout, helping stallholders access refreshments more easily and arranging for a bit more 'tidy up time'.

Improvements can always be made and we'll continue trying to make them every time we host a fair.