

STOCKPORT

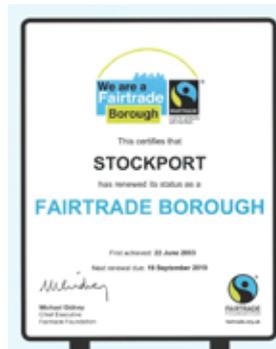
FAIRTRADE

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GROUP

Stockport's Fairtrade Foundation renewal



We are pleased to announce the renewal of Stockport's Fairtrade Borough status.

Stockport Council recently issued the following press release about this achievement: 'Stockport has successfully renewed its Fairtrade Borough status through the work of Stockport Fairtrade Group in collaboration with Stockport Council. Originally awarded in June 2003 by the Fairtrade Foundation, the certificate has been renewed until September 2019.

In confirming the renewal, the Foundation commended the Fairtrade Group on its achievements which include the annual



Fairtrade Fair, the newsletter keeping people informed on activities and events, and the pop-up stall at Stockport station during Fairtrade Fortnight. The Council was also congratulated for its continuous support for Fairtrade through the provision of Fairtrade refreshments, and particularly the steering group being supported by cross party council members.

Councillor David Sedgwick, Stockport Council's Cabinet Member for Reform and Governance said: "Fantastic news that Stockport has renewed its Fairtrade status and great work from Stockport Fairtrade Group in collaboration with Stockport Council to secure another two years as a Fairtrade Borough. This enables us to further promote and support Fairtrade, including the Fairtrade Fair at Stockport's Guildhall. Buying Fairtrade produce is an excellent way that we can support developing countries and local communities in our everyday lives."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Fairtrade Fair 2017

Saturday 25 November, 10.30am – 3.30pm. Stockport Guildhall, 169 Wellington Road South, SK1 3UA

This is our second year at this venue and we'll be making a few changes to make it an even better event than it was last year. With a wide range of fairly traded items to buy, food sampling, music, singing, children's activities, a raffle, treasure trail and refreshments, it promises to be a full day for all the family.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 Monday 26 Feb - Sunday 11 Mar.

At the time of writing, we don't know what theme the Fairtrade Foundation has decided on and SFTG are so busy preparing for the 2017 fair that we haven't yet decided what we'll be doing either!!

So, if you've ever considered joining us, now would be a good time. It's a golden opportunity to come along to a meeting, share your ideas and work with us to carry them out.

Connect With Us!

There are lots of ways to get in touch:-



Facebook: search for Stockport Fairtrade Group

Web: www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk



Twitter: our name is @Stockportft

Email: info@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

Schools: schools@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

WHERE TO FIND US

If you would like to get involved, please come along to one of our meetings at Stockport Labour Club, Heaton Chapel, SK4 1QP.

We usually start at 6.30pm, so get in touch to find out the next meeting date.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2017

We were at Stockport railway station again in February 2017, chatting with travellers and giving them some sustaining Fairtrade samples, as well as some Fairtrade leaflets to read and thoughts to consider on their journey.

The pop-up stalls are very successful. They are a great way to engage with people and the staff at Stockport railway station are so friendly and helpful. It is a real pleasure to spend a couple of (sometimes) draughty hours there.

SFTG also took samples, leaflets and recipes to Stockport Town Hall for distribution over Fairtrade Fortnight and a raffle of Fairtrade items was held, with proceeds going to the Mayor's charity. Aquinas College received a selection of Fairtrade samples and leaflets for distribution in the student canteen and in the adult education area.

And, seeing as everyone seems to love a pop-up stall, SFTG members will be there again on 18 November to let station users know about the annual fair to be held at Stockport Guildhall on Saturday 25 November.



FAIRTRADER FOCUS



Paul Wolfenden has been fair trading since February 2009 and has had a stall at our annual fair for the past few years.

"I set up THE FAIR TRADE STORE after finding out about the inequalities of unjust trade from my work as a buyer with some of the UK's leading supermarkets.

The wide range of competitively priced, high quality and handmade Fair Trade products which I sell are unique and not readily available in supermarkets or department stores, giving you the opportunity to purchase something special.

When you shop with us, you are just a few steps away from the actual Fair Trade producers in some of the world's poorest communities, helping to transform trade and change lives. You are 'helping to make a difference'. How good is that?

You are also supporting a small, independent and ethically-minded UK business that you can trust and which is a proud member of BAFTS, The British Association for Fair Trade Shops."

As well as selling at craft fairs, schools, colleges and community events, Paul sells online from THE FAIR TRADE STORE website at www.thefairtradestore.co.uk, an eBay shop at <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/thefairtradestore> and on Amazon Marketplace.

AGM 28 June at Stockport Town Hall



At the AGM, our chair, Sheila Townsend, expressed concerns in her report about some supermarkets and brands abandoning the Fairtrade Foundation certification and replacing it with an 'own-brand' version. The Fairtrade Foundation is involved with some of these changes, giving some degree of confidence that Fairtrade Standards will be maintained, but many producers are unhappy about the loss of control over their own lives and long-term improvement plans for their communities.

There is currently a lot of controversy surrounding Fairtrade and how much

real benefit is achieved by the producers. It may not be perfect, but the Fairtrade mark is better than other options being promoted and it's the best we've got at the moment.

SFTG members are not the most 'social-media savvy' group of people, although some of our members are more familiar with Facebook and Twitter than others. To help SFTG make more use of social media to promote the group's activities and events, Paul Wolfenden of THE FAIR TRADE STORE, came along to advise us on how to use social media effectively. Paul is quite the expert on this topic and shared some very interesting tips with us, pointing the group firmly in the direction of using social media more frequently and to our advantage.

We still need someone to take on and develop the role of social media interaction for SFTG, so please get in touch if you could do this, or pass on the request if you think of someone who might be interested.