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Producers

STOCKPORT

FAIRTRADE

www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

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GROUP

Christmas Fair 2019

Saturday 23 Nov 10.30am-3pm

The Guildhall on the A6 just past the Town Hall as you head out of Stockport is where the best Fair Trade Fair around will be held again this year. With its usual wide selection of fairly traded goods, musical entertainment, chocolate treasure hunt, refreshments, children's activities and a chance to win one of the raffle prizes, it's an event not to be missed. Please make a note of the event's start and end times – we can't open the doors until the stalls are ready for action and you don't want to miss out on purchasing that special gift.

Fair Focus: Chanasa / Chifundo

Chifundo came to the fair for the first time in 2018 and are returning this year with a further selection of products from Malawi.



Chifundo at SFTG fair 2018

Charity Chair, Sue Flynn, told us about the charity: "Chanasa/Chifundo fashion, accessories and household products are ethical and sustainable. They are made by three women's groups and three female tailors in poorer districts of Blantyre in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. Products are sold in

Malawi in the Four Seasons, La Galleria, the Wildlife Sanctuary and Abantu - Lilongwe, La Caverna, African Habitat and Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre and in the UK in six Fair Trade shops. Chifundo gives financial support for a Development Manager, equipment and training women in tailoring. Chanasa (Malawi) started in April 2013, was registered as a charity in April 2014 and is a member of BAFTS (British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers). The charity's ethos is to empower women who sew by fair pay and a participatory organisation. In the UK, the Worldwide Eco Sewing Group creates samples to embellish clothes and accessories. These are sold with Chanasa products at fashion events hosted mainly by women's groups. The Sewers, together with other women, provide support as Women Making a Difference in Malawi, by promoting Chifundo events, products and literature. Chifundo UK was registered as a charity in March 2015 and fundraising concerts were organised in 2015 and 2019.



Chanasa / Chifundo workers

In Fairtrade Fortnight and Fashion Revolution Week we hold events that raise awareness about issues facing the mainstream fashion industry, how they can be tackled and the importance of Fair Trade. A favourite old Chinese proverb within the organisation is:

'When sleeping women wake, mountains move'. Chifundo/Chanasa are by Women for Women.'

For further information, visit www.chanasachifundomalawi.org or contact Susan Flynn on 01244 3814900 or by email at sflynn@waitrose.com

Fairtrade Borough - Status Renewal

The renewal of the borough's Fair Trade status seems to come around very quickly and is due again. The process is now on-line and there are some big changes from the previous paper-based format. The proposed renewal has been agreed with SMBC/SFTG Steering Group and submitted. The borough's renewal will hopefully be successful and in place for another 2 years.

What's Happening

SFTG members will be engaging with rail users at Stockport Railway Station on Saturday 9 November at a pop-up stall in the subway area. We'll be promoting the fair, distributing Fair Trade goodies and sharing this newsletter with everyone who can spare a minute of their journey time for a few words about the Fair Trade journey. If you're around the station area when we're there, please come for a chat and pick up some goodies.



SFTG members at station

Fairtrade Fortnight 2020 Monday 24 Feb - Sunday 8 March

The Fairtrade Foundation's focus for 2020 is remaining on cocoa and the mission to ensure all farmers are paid fairly for their work. Particular attention will be paid to the special role of women farmers in relation to living incomes and the benefits that can bring to families and communities. The aim of the campaign is to encourage more people to make Fairtrade chocolate their chocolate of choice.

Fairtrade Mark At 25

It's 25 years since the Fairtrade Mark was launched in the UK, making it as old as Eurotunnel and Disney's 'Lion King'.

As the Foundation's website says: "For 25 years, Fairtrade and our supporters have been fighting against poverty and inequality, making a real difference to the lives of farmers and workers. From working with businesses and governments, teaching about Fairtrade in schools, campaigning and lobbying, to choosing Fairtrade in the shops, you have all been part of this journey. Join us for the next 25 years, demanding fairer trade and living incomes for farmers and workers."



No-deal Brexit?



You're probably fed-up of the whole subject by now, but assuming Brexit does actually happen, existing trade deals will undoubtedly be affected whether a deal is in place or not. This is what the Fairtrade Foundation website published in response to the vision of a no-deal Brexit:

"The Fairtrade Foundation has welcomed the UK government's decision to put in place a 'transitional protection measure' to ensure that developing countries do not lose their UK market access in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

A number of countries including Ghana, Côte D'Ivoire, Cameroon and Kenya, have not yet signed 'roll-over' deals or agreed future trade arrangements with the UK, thus running the risk that duty-free access granted through existing EU measures, could be lost after October 31st. The UK government confirmed on 17 October 2019 to the UK parliament's International Trade Committee that the UK would seek to protect existing market access arrangements for an 18-month period in the event of no-deal.

Commenting on the announcement, Tim Aldred, Head of Policy at the Fairtrade Foundation said: "A no-deal Brexit poses a number of risks for Fairtrade farmers including the possibility of new import tariffs.

The Fairtrade Foundation has been calling for this kind of measure which would unilaterally guarantee market access for developing countries in the event of no-deal. We are glad that the government has now proposed this temporary measure, albeit with very short notice. Trade arrangements after Brexit continue to present serious uncertainties for Fairtrade farmers, and it is our hope that a longer term solution will also be found which maximises the potential of UK trade to support poverty reduction, environmental protection and human rights. This will need to include a long term review of unilateral preferences and the UK's replacement for the controversial Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)."

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Facebook: search for Stockport Fairtrade Group



Twitter: our name is @Stockportff

WHERE TO FIND US

If you would like to get involved, please come along to one of our meetings at Stockport Labour Club, 2 Lloyd Street, Stockport, SK4 1QP.

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