

STOCKPORT

FAIRTRADE

www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

info@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

GROUP

Beyond Traidcraft plc

The start of 2023 brought news that Traidcraft plc was going into administration. Traidcraft started in 1979 and its trading arm (Traidcraft plc) had been relied on by UK Fair Traders to supply stalls to bring fairly traded items to a wide customer base, keeping the importance of purchasing in a fair manner globally in their minds. Initially, after the news broke, there were mixed feelings beginning with some negative ones of worry and frustration. Statements like "Fairtrade is finished" were made as some people believed wrongly that Traidcraft and Fairtrade were one and the same. Fair Traders quickly reassured people this was not the case and groups rapidly emerged locally and nationally, working together to ensure the continuation of fair-trade goods supply. Producers did not just supply Traidcraft plc, there are many other UK outlets for their goods. It's a matter of connecting with these outlets and working out alternative purchase methods. With so many fair-trade options in the UK, it's an exciting time and there is a wonderful fair-trade market beyond Traidcraft plc.

If you are a Fair Trader selling at a church, school, markets or other venues, you could find 'Fairtraders UK' on Facebook a good source of information.

For Fair Traders and individuals, a useful list of UK fairtrade and ethical goods suppliers is available at <https://www.neast.org.uk/fairtrade/>

Visit the 'Buying Fairtrade' section of the Fairtrade Foundation website (www.fairtrade.org.uk) to find out where to buy many Fairtrade items, including some you may never have considered

Transform Trade

Traidcraft Exchange charity became independent from Traidcraft in 2018 and in 2022 was renamed to Transform Trade. The charity works with overseas producers for trade and climate justice and in the UK for changes to business practices and government policies.

As rising prices and climate change increasingly affect people at home and abroad, it is more important than ever to support the most vulnerable globally in whatever way we can, whether by donating directly to organisations who help them, like Transform Trade, or by buying fairly as much as we can. Find out more at <https://www.transform-trade.org>

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

This year was one of the busiest Fairtrade Fortnights ever for SFTG members.

Council meeting: leaflets, tea and coffee samples were given to Stockport Councillors and a prize of fairly traded items was provided by the group for a raffle. Fairtrade Fortnight was advertised in SMBC's Review newspaper and on social media.

Mayor's parlour visit by Rose Hill Primary School: the children met the Mayor and Mayoress of

Stockport, telling them about the school's Fairtrade FairAware award achievement before having a tour of the Town Hall.

Craft fair at St. Mark's Church, Bredbury: in conjunction with the Co-op group whose local Bredbury Pioneer also organised a Fairtrade poster competition for local schools. Several stalls sold fairly traded items and SFTG members had an information stall with samples and awareness-raising.

Bake off at Outwood Primary School, Heald Green: there were 25 entries to the competition which was attended and judged



Rose Hill children in the Mayor's Parlour



Outwood Primary School Bake Off



St. Mark's Church, Bredbury

by Stockport's Mayor, David Wilson; Councillor Linda Holt and two Co-op representatives, in addition to SFTG members.

Assembly at All Saints School, Marple: two SFTG members spoke and a pack for schools was donated.

Heaton Moor United Church: coffee morning and fair trade stall held at the church by an SFTG member.

New to SFTG

SFTG were pleased to welcome Stuart, a long standing Fair Trader, to our group early this year. He works with Stockport's Pure Innovations and gives a bit more information about them here:

"Pure Innovations is a charity which supports clients with learning disabilities. You may have seen them in Merseyway recently with their Pop up Shop. Amongst other activities they have three cafes in the Stockport area trading as Pure Coffee in Etherow Country Park and Vernon Park and at the Windmill Coffee Shop on behalf of Stockport Homes. Most of their teas and coffees are fairly traded, and they have a local supply chain buying milk from a local farmer, meat from a local butcher, and their bread produced in Stockport uses wheat grown in Cheshire and milled by Wm Nelstrop, a 6th generation independent miller in Stockport – one of only two independent millers in Europe."

If you know of other businesses in the Stockport area using fairly traded products, let Pure Innovations know by emailing Stuart.Brierley@pureinnovations.co.uk



Plastic, Plastic Everywhere

Crisp packets from the 1960s washing up on the beach – not a great prospect for the future. Try the scrunch test – if the plastic springs back into shape, at any speed, it's recyclable. From crisp packets and other foil wrappers to cereal liners and biscuit packets, they can all be taken to your local Co-operative store and popped in their blue bin. Many other supermarkets also offer this recycling option and if they don't, then ask the manager. Buying fruit and vegetables loose or in paper packaging, taking your own containers for other foods and household products and using shops with refill services are just a few other ways to reduce plastic waste.

For Marple residents, a Plastic Free Marple group (subcommittee of Climate Action Marple) has been set up to minimise the use of disposable cups. Send us an email for more information.



Connect with us!

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE

Our website is regularly updated, so take a look if you haven't visited it for a while.

-  [stockportfairtrade](https://www.instagram.com/stockportfairtrade)
-  [@Stockportft](https://twitter.com/Stockportft)
-  [Stockport Fairtrade Group](https://www.facebook.com/StockportFairtradeGroup)
-  info@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk
-  schools@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk
-  www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

Is yours a fair trade church?

If you attend a church, do you know if they use fairly traded tea, coffee and sugar? Are the cleaning products eco-friendly? If you don't know the answers, ask a church leader.

Using fairly traded items is a way of giving producers the chance of a fair wage for their work, giving them and their families a better life in so many ways. It also empowers communities to make more environmentally friendly choices in their farming and production methods, thereby helping them to adjust to the climate changes affecting all our lives, especially those living in the most affected areas.

Choosing to buy Fairtrade is not a charitable act, it is something we should all be doing automatically. To do otherwise is choosing to exploit the most vulnerable people in our global society, which we know is completely unfair.

2023 SFTG Fair

Saturday 18 November, at Stockport Guildhall, 169 Wellington Road South, SK1 3UA – on the A6 close to the Co-operative shop.

Save the date, look out for posters and visit our website for further details. We'll email for volunteers closer to the date but if you're coming to the fair, you could combine your shopping with helping if you have a spare hour or two. Email us if you'd like to join in, we're always happy to have an extra pair of hands.

If you, or someone you know, would like to have a stall at the fair, send an email telling us what's being sold, and we'll get back to you.

WHERE TO FIND US

We are currently meeting via Zoom. If you would like to get involved, please email: info@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk