



STOCKPORT

FAIRTRADE

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GROUP

Thank You to Robert

SFTG members were sad when long-standing member, Robert Twigg, passed away earlier this year. Robert was one of the Group's founder members and will be greatly missed in so many ways.



Robert Twigg

Readers may remember him from the entrance hall at the annual fair, greeting visitors and selling raffle tickets. He also regularly organised the advertising around the Guildhall and previously at Stockport College on the day of the fair, ensuring the event was as visible as possible to A6 users.

But Robert did so much more than that, both with SFTG and as a member of many more organisations, having been involved all his life in the promotion of fair and equal treatment in all aspects of society. He didn't just talk about fairness and equality, Robert got out there and did something about it. A fond farewell from SFTG and thank you for all the years you gave to our group.

2024 SFTG Fair Trade & ECO fair

If anyone has somehow managed to miss out on this event over the last ten plus years, 2024 is the

year to change that. It's always a busy, fun-packed way to spend a Saturday with so many fairly traded and sustainable options for gifts, food, cards, clothing and household items, all under one roof. The Mayor of Stockport has been invited, and Manchester Community Choir will regale visitors with their repertoire. Together with the SFTG cake stall, activities for the children, a raffle, refreshments and free admission, it's an unmissable occasion. Many of our regular traders will be there, but some new traders will also be bringing a selection of their stock to the event.

Do not miss out - Saturday 16 November 2024, 10.30am-3pm at Stockport Guildhall, 169 Wellington Road South, SK1 3UA

Fairtrade Fortnight 2024

The Fairtrade Foundation moved the timing of this national event for this year from the usual February date to September, as they wanted to mark the 30th anniversary of the Foundation and they are considering making this a permanent September occasion.

Along with other groups, SFTG feel that the new timing is difficult for a number of reasons. Schools have just returned after the summer holidays and are embroiled in the busy start of a new school year. People without school age children are often on

holiday themselves. Churches are involved with harvest festivals and starting to organise Christmas events.

SFTG are in the process of writing to the Fairtrade Foundation to express these concerns and suggest a move back to the previous Fairtrade Fortnight timing of February. We are aware that the Foundation has received a number of similar requests from various organisations who support Fairtrade throughout the year and have organised special events to promote the movement in February for many years.

To mark this year's September Fairtrade Fortnight, Catriona, one of our members, held a

Catriona at coffee morning



coffee morning at Heaton Moor Church where Stuart, another SFTG member, had a Fairtrade stall. Electronic promotional material was

circulated to councillors for display on the SMBC website.

SFTG member, Fran, who works at Just-Ice, an ethical ice-cream café in Poynton, helped to promote Fairtrade Fortnight there.



A new website for SFTG

Our website has been updated and improved, making it easier to navigate and bringing Fairtrade news and details of events in Stockport and further afield. Visit the 'Links' page to find lots of places for buying all kinds of fairly traded goods, from everyday basics to home furnishings and much more.

What's been happening?

Outwood Primary School, one of Stockport's Fairtrade schools, held a Fairtrade assembly in May, at which SFTG member, Fran, spoke to the children about the importance of choosing fairly traded goods. The school also

Outwood School Bake-Off judging



held a Bake-Off competition which was judged by the Mayor of Stockport, Suzanne Wyatt, SFTG member, Pauline, and two Co-op representatives. The entries were very impressive, making the final decision so difficult that the judges awarded joint competition winners, who both received prizes of Fairtrade goodies donated by the Co-op.

After the hard work of several SFTG members on the renewal of Stockport's Fairtrade Community status in December 2023, the certificate was presented to the Mayor of Stockport, Suzanne Wyatt, in July 2024. This will be displayed in the Town Hall, so take a look next time you visit and, if you can't find it, please ask a member of staff there.



Fairtrade certificate presentation

Transform Trade and Traidcraft

After the purchase of the Traidcraft brand name as the trading arm of Transform Trade, there are now a limited number of products available, including cards, toilet rolls and the ever-popular Traidcraft tea.

The Traidcraft website at <https://www.traidcraft.org> states that they are "using the 'Traidcraft mark' to pioneer other new fair trade products and promote fairness in supply chains which can't yet access the Fairtrade mark" and "to further strengthen the fair trade movement, Traidcraft products are most often sold in partnership with ethical businesses in the UK."

The aim of Transform trade and Traidcraft is to work "alongside producers to rebuild Traidcraft

in the right way - as a positive resource and route to market for communities around the world."

If products are labelled as Traidcraft, the mark shows that fair trade principles are still in place even if the familiar Fairtrade symbol is not yet being used.

Fairtrade News

The first International Fairtrade Textile Forum took place in Paris on 17 October 2024 where a new study was released indicating the better environmental outcomes of producing Fairtrade certified organic cotton as compared to non-Fairtrade cotton. The Fairtrade Foundation's website states that "Cotton that was both Fairtrade and organic or converting to organic outperformed conventional cotton in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and avoidance of chemicals, according to the study. The study also revealed that beyond the benefits of organic farming practices, Fairtrade and organic certification provides economic advantages for cotton farmers, as measured through yields and farmgate prices received by farmers. The combination of these factors contributes to better livelihoods and greater environmental sustainability."

In addition to the excellent quality of Fairtrade cotton, this is another good reason for consumers to choose Fairtrade organic cotton above non-Fairtrade cotton.

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
-  www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

WHERE TO FIND US

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