



STOCKPORT

FAIRTRADE

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GROUP

SFTG Fair Trade & ECO fair

The SFTG annual fair in November 2025 was hugely successful with a good number of returning and new visitors to the event, enjoying all that was on offer, from the variety of goods and the music of Manchester Community Choir to the raffle and children's



Stockport's Mayor & Mayoress
– second circuit

activities. There was so much to see that Stockport's Mayor and Mayoress went round twice to make sure nothing was missed. The Mayor commented that: "this fairtrade event was fantastic, with many impressive stalls and innovative ideas. It is so important to support Fairtrade as it helps support economic growth, helps improve standards of goods and services and, most importantly, helps to reduce poverty." As always, the success of the event relied not only on plenty of visitors, but volunteers on the day helping to staff stalls and donating homemade cakes to SFTG's fund-raising cake stall which

helps offset event running costs.

Here are a few of the lovely words received from some of the stallholders at the fair:

Navina Shore, Red Cross:

"Thank you again for a lovely event. It was one of my biggest sales this year!"

Elise Van Meerssche, Artist & Creator of

The Jolly Upcycler: *"This is my favourite fair to attend. It is the only Christmas fair I decided to do this year because I know it's always a great one: the fairtrade team is super friendly,*

Children's activity



the place is great and warm and the people who come always take the time to chat. I was amazed by the number of people coming back to tell me how they love the products they'd bought a year or two ago. It definitely re-boosted me!"

Nicola and Adam, Tihar Gifts:

"We really enjoy the fair, and appreciate being there. We find it hard to find markets that are a good fit for our products, as market curators often want stallholders to be the makers themselves. We have visited



Poynton's Just Ice

other fair-trade markets, but they have been really small with little on offer; Stockport does it really well!"

Enough said... apart from, SFTG have already booked Stockport Guildhall for the next fair, so get the date in your diary now – Saturday 14 November 2026

What we're getting up to

Big Brew 2026 – 23 Feb – 8 March

Transform Trade are celebrating their 40th birthday this year and are hoping for lots of support nationally for Big Brew community events when, as well as bringing communities together, the focus this year will be on fighting for the establishment of a Fashion Watchdog. They are encouraging organisers to invite their local MP and ask them to commit their support to the campaign. It should be a great opportunity for communities to make the UK government aware of how important the establishment of a Fashion Watchdog is to them

for fighting trade injustice in the fashion industry worldwide. In the Stockport area, two of our MPs have already signed up for the Fashion Watchdog campaign.

Members of SFTG will be attending several **Big Brew** events in the Stockport area:

Thursday 5 March, 10am-12pm:
Marple Methodist Church,
Church Lane, Marple, SK6 7AY

Saturday 7 March,
10.30am-12.30pm: Marple
United Reformed Church, 19A
Hibbert Lane, Marple, SK6
7NN. Lisa Smart MP is
scheduled to attend this event.

Saturday 14 March, 10am-12pm:
Heaton Moor United Church,
Stanley Rd., Stockport, SK4
4HL. Navendu Mishra MP is
scheduled to attend this event.

Looking a little further ahead, a member of SFTG will be giving a talk and presentation in June at a local U3A meeting to show the value and importance of supporting Fairtrade and sustainability in the everyday and special purchases we make.

Fair vs. Cheap for Easter?

The price of chocolate has risen recently with a global shortage of cocoa due to climate change causing the price of this commodity to soar. Many of us enjoy the luxury of a chocolate treat and Easter is a peak time for gifting Easter eggs to our families. Shops have been selling Easter eggs most of this year with an enormous choice available at varying prices. For our Easter treats, by choosing to buy eggs showing the Fairtrade mark, rather than reaching for the cheapest eggs on the shelf, buyers are helping to give the cocoa producers an income they deserve in order to provide a basic standard of living for themselves and their families, and to help sustain and build their communities.



Apart from the high quality and great taste of the chocolate, choosing Fairtrade Easter gifts over the cheaper options, shows a respect for the producers' effort and welfare which makes it taste even better.

What we've been up to

SFTG members attended a coffee morning in February at St. Thomas' Church, High Lane, setting up a stall showing a range of Fairtrade and ethical products, whilst giving out Fairtrade samples of tea, coffee and chocolate and engaging with visitors and other stallholders on the importance of Fairtrade and sustainability.



St. Thomas' coffee morning

Events like this are a good opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other groups and individuals in the area and

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)
-  [@stockportfairtrade.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/stockportfairtrade.bsky.social)
-  [Stockport Fairtrade Group](https://www.facebook.com/stockportfairtrade)
-  info@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk
-  schools@stockport-fairtrade.org.uk
-  www.stockport-fairtrade.org.uk

offer support where needed, such as providing a speaker or advising on where to purchase products.

Fairtrade News

The Fairtrade Foundation will be launching their 2026 campaign in early March when, following the success of their 2025 Do it Fair campaign, they'll "be expanding Do it Fair this year to explore three core themes around people, planet and pay."

Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 will take place from Monday 21 Sept - Sunday 4 Oct

Greater Manchester Fairtrade Network

Fair Trade and EcoFest event at Manchester Cathedral on 3 October 2026

Planning by the Greater Manchester Fairtrade Network and other parties is under way for this event where the involvement of the Co-operative, fairtrade businesses and schools should make for an entertaining event. With stalls, videos, activities, refreshments and music, a day trip to Manchester should be very enjoyable and worthwhile. Definitely a date for the diary.

Bluesky

The reputation of Twitter/X has not improved recently, so SFTG's decision to move away from that platform to Bluesky Social seems to have been the right one. If you are a user of social media, please follow us: @stockportfairtrade.bsky.social or pass this handle on to anyone you know who is a frequent user of social media and interested in Fair Trade and Eco matters.

WHERE TO FIND US

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