

Gosport Fairtrade Action

Promoting FAIRTRADE in the Borough of Gosport

www.portsmouthfairtrade.org/gfa.htm



Ask for Fairtrade products bearing this Mark

www.fairtrade.org.uk

Newsletter

No 5 August 2010

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About Gosport Fairtrade Action (GFA)

GFA helped Gosport achieve Fairtrade Borough Status* in 2008 and secured its renewal until 2011.

Members are from voluntary organisations, schools, churches, businesses, various political parties and religious groups and elected and staff members of Gosport Borough Council.

We provide information which enables people in Gosport to choose to deal fairly with disadvantaged producers in developing countries and make the world fairer today and sustainable tomorrow.

* as a Fairtrade Borough, Gosport meets five Fairtrade Goals:

1. the Borough Council passed a resolution to support Fairtrade and to serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at meetings and in its offices;
2. has a range of Fairtrade products sold in at least, 16 shops [now 24] and in 8 cafés and catering establishments [now 13];
3. a number of local work places and community organisations use Fairtrade products;
4. attract media coverage and popular support
5. has an active Steering Group

AGM 2010

The meeting approved the annual report of a busy year, and a healthy report from the Treasurer. The officers were warmly thanked for their work, especially the retiring Chair, Michael Heaps and

Mary Heaps, who, together, had led GFA through the formative early years.

The following were elected to serve until June 2011

Chair	Vacant
Hon.Sec.	Sarah Hirom
Treasurer	Tricia Stephenson
Press Officer	Nuisha Abab

WANTED!

New members to promote Fairtrade

Annual Review 2009-10

Supporters and Links

GFA is grateful for donations from Asda, the Co-op, Lidl; Morrison's and many individuals. GFA was one of the voluntary organisations chosen for the Waitrose "Community Matters" Scheme in October, 2009. Our thanks go to Waitrose and to all the shoppers who put their token in GFA's box.

We enjoy good working relationships with Gosport Borough Council and the Co-op.

Our thanks go to Councillor Mrs Dianne Searle, for her interest and support during her term as Mayor.

GFA is a member of Gosport Voluntary Action.

Updating the Directory

Since this was published in summer 2008, a few outlets listed have ceased to exist but new ones selling at least 2 products have emerged especially since Cadbury's Dairy Milk and some Kit Kat bars became Fairtrade. The directory on the website is updated regularly:

www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/where-can-i-buy/

We plan to produce a new leaflet in spring 2011. Please let us know of any changes. We would greatly appreciate offers of help with the new survey.



Highlights of the year

GFA has organised and supported many events and activities, with the aim of reaching Gosport residents, young and old, in a wide range of contexts – local councillors and Town Hall staff, library users, church congregations, businesses, high street shoppers, community festivals and competitions.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2010



We followed the national theme of persuading people to 'swap' their usual purchases and buy Fairtrade versions of the products instead. As our contribution to the national target of **one million and one swaps**, we set ourselves a **target of 1,700 swaps**. We encouraged churches, schools, dancers at the Gosport Community Association's Tea Dance, a residents' association, and everyone who came into the Town Hall to register their swaps.



We exceeded our target with **2,053 registered swaps** thanks in no small part to Brune Park Community College which almost hit the Gosport target on its own.

We also had a visit from Rita Broni, one of the Fairtrade Foundation's staff, who talked about extending the benefits of Fairtrade to producers to an invited audience of Fairtrade activists from all over Hampshire, at the Town Hall. GFA also organised for her to visit schools in the region and talk to a meeting of Co-op managers and members.

Fairtrade Fortnight coffee morning at the a Gosport Business Centre



photo by Andrew Weston

Clients were encouraged to Bring and Swap. An enthusiastic crowd of business men and women tasted and acclaimed a huge variety of Fairtrade products from snack bars, muffins and chocolate to wine, coffee and juices. A GFA display provided information about Fairtrade at work and leaflets to take away.

An Evening of Music for Fairtrade

In October 09, GFA combined fund-raising with an evening concert at the Discovery Centre.



Photos: Nuisha Abab



It was a sell out - a hugely successful and enjoyable evening with great performances from singers and instrumentalists who presented a diverse and diverting mix of music, from classical guitar to jazz and barbershop. Huge thanks to the performers and the audience.

Festivals, Fairs and Carnivals

GFA members promoted Fairtrade at a wide range of local events in Gosport

Bridgemaury Carnival in July 09 with the Co-op;

Leecofriendly Event, Lee-on-the-Solent. Aug. 09 The Co-op offered free samples of Fairtrade products from their caravan.

Leesland Park Festival in Sept. 09 -Members ran a Fairtrade refreshments stall.

Alverstoke Michaelmas Fair in Sept. 09 GFA members sold Fairtrade and Traidcraft products from a stall and the Village Tearooms offered Fairtrade refreshments;

Grange Farm – at the September 2009 Wild Harvest and April 2010 Spring Festival GFA had a Traidcraft stall and a display, with a quiz.

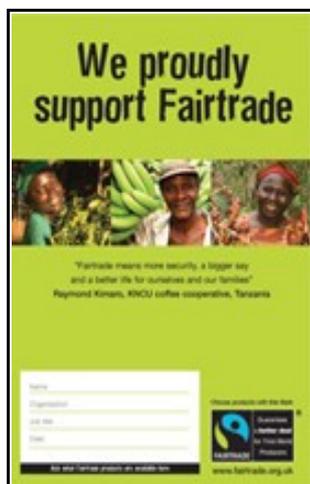


Photo: GFA

If you would like Gosport Fairtrade Action to contribute to YOUR event, Please contact us

The Mayor's Christmas Coffee Morning in Gosport Town Hall.

GFA ran Traidcraft and Fair Trade stalls offering Christmas presents "with a difference". Fairtrade prizes supplied by the Co-op featured in the raffle. Fairtrade refreshments included Fairtrade tea and coffee and cakes.



Working with Businesses

This was a priority focus for us in 2009-10 and continues to be.

We would like to see all businesses in Gosport displaying this sign which indicates the business uses Fairtrade refreshments at its meetings and for its staff and clients.



The **Gosport Business Centre** has led the way, offering Fairtrade coffee, in its coffee machines (delicious) and tea and sugar in its meetings and in the visitors' lounge. Posters and leaflets explain Fairtrade at Work and the Centre displays its Fairtrade Certificates with pride.

Their Fairtrade Fortnight Coffee Morning offered a taste of lots of Fairtrade products to large crowd of its licensees to encourage them to use Fairtrade in their businesses as well as at home.

Gosport Business Forum – GFA members make contact with local businesses at some of these meetings.

Business in Hampshire

A GFA member with members of Portsmouth Fairtrade Forum helped facilitate a catering suppliers' event at IBM in Fairtrade Fortnight (Feb. 2010)

GFA has agreed to form a consortium with other local Fairtrade Groups to join the **Hampshire Chamber of Commerce**.

Your workplace can change the world!
Fairtrade at work
 visit www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk



If your workplace is using Fairtrade, please tell us.

If not:

can you persuade your place of work to use Fairtrade refreshments and snacks?

If you need help – in persuading colleagues or the boss, or in finding suppliers ...

We can help you :-

Ask for our leaflets and our display on 'FAIRTRADE at Work' or go to GFA's website:

www.portsmouthfairtrade.org/

News of Schools and Colleges

Brune Park Community College kicked off to a good start in its campaign for Fairtrade School status with its very own World Cup style football tournament, African-themed art exhibition and a Fair Share Picnic for Y 7 at the end of the summer term.

Bay House School has also registered its interest in the Fairtrade Schools Scheme.

In the Primary Schools:

Our Co-op colleagues have been working with:
Elson Junior; Woodcot Primary and Brockhurst Infants.

GFA members have given talks to:
St John's Primary – which ran a three week programme for Y 6; they also borrowed the GFA exhibition.

Lee-on-the-Solent Junior - Y 5 followed a two week programme on the theme, 'Food We Eat'. The Co-op, Waitrose and GFA were involved.

GFA wishes these initiatives every success and is delighted to work with them. We are keen to hear from any other educational establishments in the Borough who would like talks, displays or to discuss Fairtrade Schools scheme.

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/>

We are several steps nearer to having a school in Gosport that can say ...



If your school has experience of Fairtrade activities to tell us about or that you could share with other schools, please get in touch as we are planning an event to share ideas.

Churches, Organisations, and Societies

Churches

In 2009-10 GFA members talked to various Church groups (St Faith's Fellowship and Stoke Road Methodist Women's Fellowship) about Fairtrade. We are aware that, while some Churches continue to have regular Traidcraft stalls, others are no longer doing so for various reasons. There have been many developments since Churches were amongst the leading pioneers in the promotion of Fairtrade.

GFA welcomes the opportunity to talk to Church groups and congregations about the vital work that Fairtrade does to enable people who have very little to earn a living, invest in their community, and take a big step out of poverty and into a fulfilled and dignified life. Please invite us!

Voluntary Organisations and Societies

GFA offers talks about various aspects of Fairtrade and, in 2010, was delighted to talk to The Bastable Ladies Lunch Group about Fairtrade tea in India.

We would welcome invitations to talk to more clubs and societies.

Gosport Community Association agreed to 'swap' their regular Tea Dance for a Fairtrade Tea Dance in Fairtrade Fortnight and Cllr. June Cully talked to Dolphin Crescent Residents' Association about swapping to Fairtrade.

Would your Church, Community Association, Club, or Residents Association like to have:

- a speaker or presentation
- a display
- a quiz

Resources GFA can offer

Locally produced [phone 9258 2140]:

Displays on loan (3 panels for table top or 7 panels free-standing or sets of individual posters)

- Introduction to Fairtrade
- The benefits of Fairtrade for producers
- Fairtrade in the workplace
- Fairtrade and women
- Fairtrade, the environment and climate change

Quizzes can be provided to go with the displays.

Leaflets and Posters

General leaflet 'Fairtrade in Gosport' – information about Fairtrade, directory [June 08] of shops selling Fairtrade certified products.

FAIRTRADE at Work Leaflet for businesses with some suggestions of local suppliers (useful for caterers and small independent shops too)

Banana Trade (2009)

Why we should buy more Fairtrade tea (2010)

Talks for primary schools

Talks with PowerPoint presentations

customised for secondary schools, or for your particular organisation, include:

Introduction to Fairtrade

Fairtrade towns

Fairtrade churches

Small scale tea growers in South India

Fairtrade in the USA

Fairtrade and the environment

Or let us know what aspect of Fairtrade you'd like to hear about and we'll try to provide it.

GFA website New since 2009, Shared with Portsmouth and Havant with a section for each group.
www.portsmouthfairtrade.org/gfa.htm

Gosport's section contains a regularly updated directory; forthcoming events; meeting dates; reports of recent events for Gosport.

A shared section contains information & ideas for businesses, schools, worship; plus news and commentary about Fairtrade issues in the news.

The Fairtrade Foundation website

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

has loads of information for all interests and resources for campaigns