

Gosport Fairtrade Action

Promoting FAIRTRADE in the Borough of Gosport

www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/

(go to Gosport page)



www.fairtrade.org.uk

Newsletter

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About Gosport Fairtrade Action (GFA)

GFA has been promoting Fairtrade in Gosport since 2006. We achieved Fairtrade Borough Status* in 2008 and in 2009 secured its renewal until 2011. We have applied for renewal again this year.

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

We explain about Fairtrade to local schools, community groups, employers, shops and catering establishments encouraging them to use and make Fairtrade products available. 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 the required **Five 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. some local work places and community organisations use Fairtrade products;
4. attract media coverage and popular support
5. has an active Steering Group

AGM 2012

At the AGM on July 11th, the following were elected to serve until June 2013

Co-ordinator	Sarah Hirom
Assistant Co-ordinator	Tara Fisher
Treasurer	Tricia Stephenson
Chair of Meetings	Tessa Bloodworth
Press Officer	Vacant
Minutes Sec.	Tara Fisher

GFA welcomes new volunteers



Some members of the Steering Group at the AGM including one of the new members who joined during the year

Annual Review 2011-12

Action Plan - We drew up a two year action plan as part of the process of renewing Gosport's Fairtrade Borough Status. This included new areas of activity such as building relationships with our MP and with new groups in the community. We also identified key areas in which to nurture and develop the good relationships already established.

Supporters and Links

We continued to build on good working relationships with Gosport Borough Council whose support for and participation in Fairtrade is essential to maintaining Fairtrade Borough Status

Our thanks go to Councillor Mr Chris Carter for his interest and support during his term as Mayor.

GFA continued to enjoy strong links with the Co-op and its staff, some of whom participated in GFA's Steering Group. We worked together to promote Fairtrade at events and we are grateful for the donations received from the Co-op.

GFA is a member of Gosport Voluntary Action and greatly values the support it provides.



Updating the Directory

Since this was published in summer 2008, the bar has been raised and retailers are required to stock four products to qualify, though catering outlets still only need two. We have been visiting shops and cafes to update the directory and the website (www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/where-can-i-buy/). We hope to complete the survey by September 2012.

Highlights of the year

News of Schools and Colleges

Two schools in Gosport can now say:

from Sept. 2011

and

from May 012



Bay House School & Sixth Form



GFA congratulates all involved.

GFA is happy to work with any schools and colleges



in the Borough which want to develop their understanding of Fairtrade. We can offer the Schools the loan of the Fairtrade Banner for assemblies, provide talks, displays and quizzes – just contact us.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Our Newsletter No 7 published in March was a photo review of the activities in Fairtrade Fortnight which launched the "Take a Step in 2012"



(to see it go to: http://www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/?page_id=1730)

Developing links with our MP

GFA invited Caroline Dinenage MP for Gosport to visit the 'Take a Step' stall in Town Hall. GFA much appreciated her visit and the support she gave to the campaign as reported on her website News 6 March. For anyone who hasn't see it we reproduce it below:

"CAROLINE CALLS ON GOSPORT TO TAKE A STEP FOR FAIRTRADE"

Local MP Caroline Dinenage is calling on Gosport to take a step for Fairtrade.

In support of Fairtrade Fortnight, Caroline will

join Gosport Fairtrade Action at their stall in Gosport Town Hall this Wednesday (7th). Now the Gosport MP is urging local residents to come down to the stall, between noon and 2pm tomorrow, to learn more about the benefits of Fairtrade.

Speaking before the event, Caroline said:

"The Fairtrade movement has had a huge impact in disadvantaged areas across the world. I'm now calling on Gosport's residents to come down to the Town Hall tomorrow to hear how small changes to their purchasing habits can have a massive impact on people's lives".

Gosport Fairtrade Action, who work hard throughout the year to maintain Gosport's status as a Fairtrade Borough, will be running the information stall from 12 noon -2pm each day this week. Their work helps to support the Fairtrade movement through the world, which promotes fair prices for commodities, financial independence and equality for female producers.

More details about Gosport's Fairtrade Fortnight can be found here:

http://caroline4gosport.co.uk/external/?x=http://www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/?page_id=1866

Hosting Fairtrade olive producers from Palestine

GFA members had the opportunity to

meet Taysir Arbasi and Riziq Abu Nasser, (seen below at Brune Park School) when they visited in Fairtrade Fortnight. We have been since been distressed to learn of threats by Israeli authorities to uproot 1,400 of Riziq's olive trees, the life blood of the Palestinian economy.

To find out more go to:

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/press_office/press_releases_and_statements/may_2012/palestinian_olive_oil_producers_ordered_to_pull_up_trees



Photo: Brune Park Community College

New relationships with Women's Groups

GFA took part in International Women's Day events in 2012.

At **Celebrating Women who have touched our lives**, GFA featured women producers of Fairtrade tea, coffee, and bananas with a special feature about Ansoma



Photo: Gill Paxman

George (*left, in her kitchen*), who Sarah had met, in 2009, on a visit to small holder tea farmers in Kerala. She has worked so hard to make her farm organic and Fairtrade but can only sell 5% of her tea to the Fairtrade market - she dreams of selling more and investing the premiums in an all-year water supply, instead of walking 3km a day to fetch water in the dry season.



At **Fashion Fusion**, at the Thorngate Halls in April, our display focused on Fairtrade cotton and several of us participated in a multicultural fashion show (*below*).



Photo: Gowomen

Working with Businesses



"Fairtrade at Work" display

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

GFA, with the other Fairtrade groups in Hampshire, is a member of the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce – during the year we loaned our display to Southampton, in Dec. 2011, and to Basingstoke, in Apr. 2012, to use at 'Meet the Chamber' events.

FAIRTRADE and the OLYMPICS



GFA, worked with the Methodist Church, in Stoke Road, who hosted a Fairtrade cotton "Flag and Banner Making Workshop" in June. Whole families made flags to celebrate Fairtrade in Gosport and at the Olympics. Jeanette (*in green right*) made the banner. We all gathered to wave as the torch went by on 15 July.



GFA made a new poster:

FAIRTRADE products at the OLYMPICS

<p>Bananas 10 million FAIRTRADE bananas from the Windward Islands and South America</p>	
<p>Tea 7.5 million cups of FAIRTRADE tea</p>	
<p>Coffee 14 million cups of coffee carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark</p>	
<p>Sugar 10 million FAIRTRADE certified sachets of sugar grown by farmers in Belize</p>	
<p>Chocolate all must be ethically sourced, most will be FAIRTRADE</p>	
<p>Wine 650,000 litres of FAIRTRADE wine from South Africa and Brazil</p>	

S.Hirom, GFA, 2012

Churches

In 2012 GFA offered, through Churches Together in Gosport, an article for their Newsletters about Fairtrade companies like Traidcraft, which offer vulnerable producers support to develop their products, business skills, markets and communities.



Portsmouth Anglican Diocese is seeking renewal of its Fairtrade Status. GFA is offering help to any of the Gosport churches that would like to become a Fairtrade Church for the first time or would like to refresh and strengthen their Fairtrade commitment. And that applies to any denomination, of course!

Voluntary Organisations and Societies

GFA offers talks about various aspects of Fairtrade. In 2012, Sarah Hirom talked to the 'Mind' group; Tessa and David Bloodworth talked to Guide and Scout Groups.

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

- a speaker or presentation
- a display
- a quiz

about Fairtrade?

Resources GFA can offer

Locally produced [phone 9258 2140]:

GFA can offer exhibitions and/or talks with PowerPoint presentations, customised for your school or organisation, on the following topics

- Introduction to Fairtrade
- Fairtrade towns
- Fairtrade churches
- Fairtrade schools
- Small scale tea growers in South India
- Fairtrade in the USA
- Fairtrade, environment & climate change
- Fairtrade in conflict zones

Forthcoming: Fairtrade in South Africa

For more information contact
GFA on 02392 582140
or via the Website
www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/

HAMPSHIRE FAIRTRADE NETWORK

GFA sent a delegation to the AGM in July at Basingstoke.

Brune Park Community College (Peter and Heather from their Fairtrade Committee, right) was one of six schools and colleges which inspired the Fairtrade Town groups' delegates with presentations about their engagement with Fairtrade.



Photo: Hickman

We all enjoyed a presentation about a visit to Fairtrade producers in South Africa by Rosemary and David from the Winchester Group.

Adam Gardner, the Fairtrade Towns Campaign Officer talked about the latest developments at the Fairtrade Foundation and we all appreciated the opportunity for sharing ideas and resources.

HFN website is: www.fairtradeinhampshire.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DON'T MISS:
The taste the Fairtrade sensation of the year!

Tickets £7 (prebooked or £8 at the door) from:

The Discovery Centre



Friday 28 Sept. 7.30
at the Discovery Centre

Quiz Night

at the Iona Hall, Bridgemary
Sat. 20 October
Refreshments Raffle

Test your wits!
Have fun and help raise funds for GFA

GFA website Shared with Portsmouth and Havant with a section for each group.

Gosport's section has a directory; forthcoming events; meeting dates; reports of events for Gosport. A shared section contains information & ideas for businesses, schools, places of worship; plus news and commentary about Fairtrade issues in the news.

The Fairtrade Foundation Website has more:
<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>