ABERGAVENNY FAIRTRADE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2016
CONTACTS

For information about Fairtrade activities:
martha.fairtrade@gmail.com
Rebecca Hands Chair
beckaandtom@yahoo.co.uk
Jeremy Gass Secretary
jeremygass@yahoo.co.uk
Phil Negus Treasurer
philjud2001@yahoo.co.uk
Mary Morgan
Membership Secretary + Church Liaison
marynepal@gmail.com

We still have mugs for sale - they cost just £3!
Contact Julie Long 01873 890093

ABERGAVENNY FAIRTRADE NEWSLETTER

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 29TH FEBRUARY TO 13TH MARCH 2016 ABERGAVENNY PROGRAMME

The theme this year for Fairtrade fortnight is:

Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!

We do hope you will join in some of the activities planned for this Fairtrade fortnight. The Fairtrade Foundation is encouraging local groups to hold a Big Breakfast during the Fairtrade Fortnight.

We are holding several events including a special Fairtrade Civic Breakfast Event on March 5th at 9.30 hosted by the Mayor. We will serve a buffet breakfast featuring Fairtrade products in the Council Chamber. Adam Gardner from Fairtrade Foundation will speak on the difference that Fairtrade makes to communities whilst local farmer Chris Wardle will speak about the challenges facing farmers locally & globally. Llantilio Perthsley school choir will be singing.

We expect to welcome 50 guests including Nick Ramsey AM, David Davies MP, Councillors and many local people. It would be helpful if you can email jeremygass@yahoo.co.uk to say if you plan to come.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 23rd</td>
<td>10.30-12</td>
<td>Little Footprints group – making</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Hall</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Fairtrade banana trees</td>
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<td>Thurs 3rd</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Coffee Morning FT Stall</td>
<td>Christchurch Community Hall, North Street</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>-12 noon</td>
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<td>Fri 4th</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Women’s World Day of Prayer</td>
<td>URC &amp; Methodist Churches, Castle Street</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 5th</td>
<td>9.30-11.30</td>
<td>Big Fairtrade Civic Breakfast – hosted by</td>
<td>Council Chamber, Town Hall</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Abergavenny Mayor</td>
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<td>Tues 8th</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Fairtrade market &amp; coffee</td>
<td>Methodist Church Hall</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>morning with speaker Martha Musonza Holman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 8th</td>
<td>12.30-2pm</td>
<td>Pancake Lunch &amp; FT Stall</td>
<td>Methodist Church Hall</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>Wed 9th</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>&quot;Value vs Values: Fairtrade and</td>
<td>County Hall</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Procurement&quot; - a debate for</td>
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<td>MCC Councillors</td>
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<td>Wed 9th</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Public Meeting: Abergavenny Africa</td>
<td>Community Centre, Park Street</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>Community Links - The importance of</td>
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<td>Fairtrade</td>
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<td>Sat 12th</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>FT Coffee morning</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<td>March</td>
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FAIRTRADE FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees are due 1st March. Thanks to all who pay by standing order or who regularly subscribe.

If you are interested in joining, the suggested amount is £5 or £10 for a couple. Please contact Mary Morgan to join and so support the Fair Trade Forum in Abergavenny, raise local awareness and achieve more for Fair Trade producers.
LOCAL GROUP UPDATE

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO KATRINA!

You may recall that our last newsletter mentioned that Katrina Gass was standing down after an amazing ten years as the lead activist for the Abergavenny Fairtrade Forum. As is often the way with small organisations, one person is the 'driver' who organises, motivates and cajoles those around her to join in with all activities and keep things going.

Her passion for Fairtrade has shone through in everything she has done, and inspired many of us to join in. She has been the face of the Abergavenny Fairtrade Forum. Katrina has decided to take a step back and hand over her myriad of roles. But don’t panic, Katrina is still very much involved! However, various aspects of the role Katrina used to do have now been shared amongst active forum members including David and Martha Holman, Rebecca Hands, Jeremy Gass, Phil Negus and Mary Morgan.

We are pleased to welcome Martin Hickman as Town Council representative on the forum.

If you would like to get in touch with us, please do so via Twitter aber_ft or Martha at martha.fairtrade@gmail.com or Mary for membership marynepal@gmail.com

ABERGAVENNY TRIO HEAD TO BRISTOL

With support from Fair Trade Wales, 3 Forum members, Dave, Martha and Rebecca were lucky enough to attend the International Fairtrade Towns Conference, 2015, in Bristol. The weekend was jam packed full of informative and diverse talks from the perspective of producers, retailers and policy makers, as well as a range of workshops to attend. It was also a great opportunity to meet people from other Fairtrade Towns and hear about their experiences.

Our pop-up banner brought plenty of attention to the Abergavenny Fairtrade Forum and gave us a chance to chat to other delegates about what we’ve been up to and our plans for the future.

As a result of the ‘Sustainable Schools and Fairtrade’ workshop, and meeting Fairtrade cotton suppliers, we have decided to campaign for Fairtrade uniforms in our local schools. Forum members will be contacting the schools in Abergavenny to highlight why we think this is an important issues and, particularly for our Fairtrade Schools, a way they can show their support for Fairtrade. We think they will be pleasantly surprised at the competitive price of the uniform! If you’d like to find out more or join in with this campaign, please get in touch.
NEW DIRECTORY LAUNCHED!

In September we were very grateful for the help we had from Mairin Long (see photo). She did an internship with us over a 2 week period before going back to university in York. She did a great job contacting all the organisations and shops listed in our previous directory and encouraged them all to keep using more Fairtrade goods. We were also able to add a few new names to the list.

THANK YOU SO MUCH MAIRIN!

Copies of the directory have been distributed and are available to anyone interested. Do ask Mary Morgan or other forum members for a copy.

BANNER MAKING

Members of ‘Stitch Together Abergavenny’ and the Fairtrade Forum created a banner this summer, celebrating Abergavenny as a Fairtrade Town in English and Welsh.

They sewed together at the lovely Quaker meeting rooms of Hedd Wen. Gill Branch donated an eye-catching yellow-gold fabric for the banner and a magenta Ugandan cloth for the back. Thank you Gill!

The Town Hall, complete with Fairtrade logo as its clock, assorted birds, the river Usk, the castle with a tree-clad Skirrid behind it, contained the central lettering. Each sewer made a ‘hand-made’ label on it: twelve in all.

There were Fairtrade refreshments at each meeting, including a banana loaf and a honey cake, made with Fairtrade ingredients.

The banner had its first outing at the Abergavenny Food Festival on September 19th, with the procession of primary school children Llantilio Pertholey School led by Martha Holman.

Thank you to all the sewers from ‘Stitch Together Abergavenny’ and everyone else involved with this community project.

Julie Long
TEN YEAR BANNER

A banner has been made to celebrate 10 years of Fairtrade in Abergavenny. The number 10 forms a pin board to display some of the activities carried out by the Fairtrade group over that time. It will hang in the window across from Waterstones along with notices about Fairtrade Fortnight and a picnic basket of Fairtrade breakfast products. Three aprons will be worn by those serving Fairtrade breakfast at the Town Hall on March 5th. They spell out ‘Sing for Fairtrade’ and ‘Wake up to Fairtrade’ and show breakfast Fairtrade products. Little Footprints playgroup will be making a Fairtrade banana tree with their handprints on February 23rd. There will be a banana story to follow.

Thank you Julie Long for all your work on this!

NEW WEBSITE

The start of 2016 saw the launch of a new website promoting the work of the Fairtrade groups around the county.

To keep up to date with what’s going on, visit:
http://monmouthshirefairtrade.org.uk/Ab
ergavenny

We need to keep our Abergavenny page as current as possible so if you have any photos or news about Fairtrade events, please send them to Phil:
philjud2001@yahoo.co.uk

PUBLIC MEETING ON WED MARCH 9TH

At 7.30pm at the Community Centre (former Park Street School)
We are inviting speakers from local organisations that sell Fairtrade goods- Abergavenny-Yirgacheffe Community Link, Love Zimbabwe and Zimele UK. The theme will be the difference these groups’ activities make to the producers and their communities. Fairtrade tea and fairly traded Yirgacheffe coffee will be served.
In their opening speeches at this year’s 9th annual Wales Fair Trade Fair, organisers, Martha & David Holman stressed the importance of the event being open to all parts of the community. New partners, Monmouthshire County Council have been instrumental in expanding the focus of the fair to include a huge range of diversity within the county. The weekend has always been about inclusivity and has given a platform to traders and groups from culturally diverse areas around the world. The fair started on Saturday in the Guild Hall, Brecon which attracted nearly 1,000 people and elicited some wonderful comments from the public about the nature of the goods on display. On Sunday, the Market Hall was packed with people wanting to purchase an early Christmas present with a difference from the many amazing and colourful stalls, which included Love Zimbabwe, Fair Grounds, Fair and Fabulous, Ananuca, Tools for self reliance, Dragon’s Garden, Mixy Fandino, Siwok, Bees for development, Crafty Women, 3 Llama’s, V.S.O., Hands around the world and Shared Interest. An extremely exotic array of food was available from Taste Zimbabwe, Boonta Too Thai, and a selection of tasty Syrian fare.

Fair Trade Abergavenny had their usual stall promoting F.T. issues and selling goods from Uganda. Also represented were Fair Trade Crickhowell and Usk. The event was officially opened by Pippa Bortolotti (leader of the Green Party in Wales) and Councillor Martin Hickman on behalf of the Mayoress of Abergavenny. In her speech, Ms. Bortolotti outlined the importance of Fairtrade and how the balance of trade between nations should change to benefit people more equally.

Councillor Martin Hickman praised the new partnership that David and Martha had created with M.C.C. and that the town should be proud of the event and support it fully. He also confirmed his role in the town council as the liason officer with Abergavenny Fairtrade Forum.

Another new innovation this year was the Diaspora/Diversity speaker’s forum, organised by Martha and Susanah Kimani-Njogu. The speakers included - Ellen Jones from Fairtrade Wales, Bekezele Nsingo from African Mother’s Foundation, Zainab Nur from Grassroots Africa Diaspora Women, Daniel Biddle - survivor of the 7/7 London bombings, Adam Smith from the Green Party in Wales, Asmaa Alfashtaki from Syria and Batool Syeda from Pakistan.

The talks ended with a vibrant and lively fashion show by Younique Wear. This forum was a great success and one of the speakers, Zainab Nur said that it was the best inclusive event that she had ever attended.

There was a great programme of entertainment which included - singer/songwriter Ellen Coombe, Chrys Blanchard’s Abercapella, and Blaenavon Ladies Choir with Zim Voices. There was also a welcome return for the very popular sheep racing organised by Jacks Lyndon with many people enjoying the buzz surrounding the races.

**Martha and David would like to thank everyone who assisted to make the weekend such a fantastic success, and are already planning the 2016 event which will be their ten year anniversary.**