



ABERGAVENNY FAIRTRADE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

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We hope everyone has had an enjoyable Summer.

September and October bring lots of new people to Abergavenny for 2 major events, the Abergavenny Food Festival and the Wales Fairtrade Fair.

The Abergavenny Food Festival

During the Food Festival this coming weekend we will be raising the profile of Fairtrade with banners around town, in the market hall and at the castle. Please let us know if you see them! Fairtrade Forum member, Jeremy Gass will be talking about Fairtrade at the Castle at 1pm on Sunday. We will also be providing Fairtrade refreshments for the Food Festival's hospitality area and have been invited to have a display there too. We are delighted that the Food Festival is embracing Fairtrade this year.

There will also be the annual Fairtrade march through town, starting at Castle Street at 1pm and threading through town with songs and dance and fun!



Do come and join us!



Wales Fairtrade Fair

On Sunday October 8th we'll be serving tea and coffee and cakes at the Wales Fairtrade Fair in the Market Hall, Abergavenny between 10am. and 5pm.

Can you help on the stall for an hour or more and/ or make some cakes or savoury items with Fairtrade ingredients?

Offers of food or help on the rota to Francis please:

fjbuxton@yahoo.co.uk

If you can't come to the stall & would like to leave a food contribution at 21 Victoria St contact jeremygass@yahoo.co.uk after Oct 2nd.

This event is a great opportunity to do your Fairtrade Christmas shopping so do come along and say hello to our members.

Thanks for your support!

Raising the profile of Fairtrade by sponsoring local events

In June, we sponsored several local events. The first of these was the launch of the World Bistro at Abergavenny Community centre where we paid for Fairtrade sparkling wine for the welcome glass of Bucks Fizz. Our pop-up stand was in the corner of the room as about 70 people enjoyed a delicious meal with an international menu.

Soon after we provided Fairtrade tea and coffee for the Great Get Together coffee morning in memory of Jo Cox MP at the Methodist



Church Hall. Again our pop-up stand was prominent and there was a display of Fairtrade goods & information on the tables. More than 100 people passed through during the morning. Finally we supported the Great Get Together Street Party on Holywell Crescent with FT refreshments.

And don't forget that you can find out who stocks Fairtrade items in Abergavenny from our Directory. We challenge you to buy **1 new Fairtrade item** in your shopping **this week**. Fairtrade is so much more than tea, coffee and bananas!

FAIRTRADE FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees are due annually on 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.



Fairtrade in the news

Earlier in the year some of you may have read about Sainsbury's decision to move from supplying Fairtrade certified goods to their own 'Fairly Traded' labelling system. Tesco then announced it was also looking at changing its fair trade certification. There are many reasons why those of us that are passionate about Fairtrade have our reservations about these changes, but the key issue is that Fairtrade has always paid a social premium back to producers for them to spend as they see fit on social schemes. The new Sainsbury's scheme will make the farmers apply for funds, thereby unbalancing the relationship between producer and supermarket.

Fairtrade producers have written an open letter to Sainsbury's, expressing their concerns, which you can read here: <http://www.fairtradeafrica.net/uncategorized/an-open-letter-to-sainsburys-from-fairtrade-producers/>

Many leading organisations such as the Fairtrade Foundation and Oxfam, Cafod, Christian Aid, Traidcraft Exchange, Tearfund, Trade Justice Movement and Commitment for Life have responded to Sainsbury's. You can read some of their statements here by clicking on the links:

[Fairtrade Foundation](#)

[Oxfam](#)

[Traidcraft](#)

If you agree with our reservations about Sainsbury's new scheme, we'd encourage you to sign a petition to be delivered to Sainsbury's by following this link:

<https://www.change.org/p/sainsbury-s-don-t-ditch-fairtrade>

And for those who prefer to cut and paste your links:

Fairtrade Foundation: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/News/May-2017/Statement-on-Fairtrade-withdrawal-from-Sainsbury-partnership?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=SC+Sainsburys+Fairly+Traded+announcement+and+petition+NONOPENERS+July+2017&utm_content=SC+Sainsburys+Fairly+Traded+announcement+and+petition+NONOPENERS+July+2017

Oxfam: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2017/05/oxfam-reaction-to-sainsburys-launch-of-fairly-traded-pilot-project>

Traidcraft: <http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/blog-entry/traidcraft-statement-on-sainsburys-announcement-of-a-pilot-fairly-traded-tea-programme>