

## **Monmouthshire's communities combine to back**

### **2019 Fairtrade Fortnight**

**25<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Schools and community groups across Monmouthshire are joining with the council to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight between Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Events across the county will aim to encourage shoppers to buy more Fairtrade goods because farmers in developing countries deserve a fair deal – one that leads to them earning a living income. Local schools are holding special assemblies, bake sales and classwork with a Fairtrade theme and the public are invited to coffee mornings, sales and tasting sessions, all aimed at making people aware of the difference Fairtrade can make.

Fairtrade has done much to improve the lives of many, but it's not enough or fast enough. Many farmers – both men and women – are underpaid and exploited. That means they can't earn enough for the basics many of us take for granted, including food, education and housing.

A living income is a fundamental goal for Fairtrade, and nowhere is the need more clear than in the cocoa industry; hence cocoa is the theme for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight. Europe is the world's biggest importer of cocoa, yet a shocking 60% of all cocoa farmers live below the poverty line.

That's why, starting in this Fairtrade Fortnight, Monmouthshire's communities can help.

Fairtrade is the only organisation to guarantee a safety net of a minimum price for farmers in times of global price decline plus a premium, an extra amount of money that goes directly to farmers to invest in business or projects of their choice in their own communities. Residents and visitors are invited to the county's Fairtrade events organised over the fortnight and look for the Fairtrade Mark to enjoy a taste of chocolate indulgence and support a move towards a living income.

Councillor Sara Jones, Monmouthshire's cabinet member for Social Justice & Community Development said: "Farmers get a better deal when they sell their crops on Fairtrade terms. This leads to a higher and more stable income and can help them break the cycle of poverty in which they're trapped. Through Fairtrade, farmers can invest in better farming and earn more money, ensuring their children are fed and can go to school. Communities can invest in clean water and clinics, improving everyone's health."

**Many events will be held in Monmouthshire over Fairtrade Fortnight;**

#### **Chepstow Town Centre**

Fairtrade window displays in the town arch, Toytastik and Oxfam.

## **Monmouth Community Hub**

Fairtrade display

## **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Pembroke Primary School, Chepstow**

Fairtrade assemblies and Fairtrade-themed persuasive writing

## **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Mayor's Parlour, Shire Hall, Monmouth**

Launch of Fairtrade coaster design competition for the Mayor's Parlour, for local primary schools

## **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (10am to 12noon) - The Priory, Monmouth**

Chocolate-themed coffee morning

## **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Chepstow Community Hub**

Fairtrade Stall

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Abergavenny Oxfam, Frogmore Street**

Fairtrade Food tasting

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (9.30am to 12.30pm) - Memorial Hall, Usk**

Fairtrade stall at Usk Farmers Market

## **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 9.15am - Raglan Primary School**

Fairtrade assembly and Year Three chocolate-themed lesson

## **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am - Little Tots, Trinity Hall, Baker Street, Abergavenny**

Fairtrade themed fun

## **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 12noon - Methodist Hall, Castle Street, Abergavenny**

Fairtrade Pancake lunch and Fairtrade stall

## **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March (10.30 to 12noon) - Llanybi Village Hall**

Fairtrade stall

## **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am - Cross Ash Primary School**

Fairtrade assembly

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30am - Christ Church, North Street, Abergavenny**

Fairtrade coffee morning

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March (12 – 2pm) - County Hall, Usk**

Fairtrade sale

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 10am - Methodist Hall, Castle Street, Abergavenny**

Fairtrade event with speakers, music, stalls and refreshments

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Chepstow Market**

Fairtrade Stall

#### **Other school activities**

- Goytre Fawr Primary School - Fairtrade baking competition
- Ysgol y Fenni - Fairtrade assembly
- Magor Church in Wales Primary School - Fairtrade assembly
- Thornwell Primary School - Fairtrade assembly
- Osbaston Primary School - Coffee morning