

ABERGAVENNY FAIRTRADE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 -Theme 'Climate Resilience'



CHOOSE THE WORLD YOU WANT THIS FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY TO SUNDAY 7TH MARCH

Fairtrade Fortnight has started! It's going to be very different this year as sadly we cannot hold any of our usual face to face events. However, the pandemic opens up opportunities to engage in FT Fortnight in fresh ways via the internet. You can join events being held throughout the UK. In this newsletter we will suggest a few events to join plus give you links to plenty more so you can choose an event to suit you e.g. join a cooking demo, hear a Fairtrade producer speak, attend a poetry or musical event etc.

There are many ways you can get involved in Fairtrade fortnight including:

- Attending an online event, (more details below)
- Increasing the amount of Fairtrade food or other items you purchase

- Promoting Fairtrade among your friends and colleagues
- Financially giving to the FT Foundation
- Supporting our local Abergavenny Fairtrade Forum

About 2021 Climate Change Theme

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 is highlighting the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with. Farmers and workers in the Global South, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected. They have told us that:

- Climate change is one of their biggest challenges right now.
- Low prices for their crops mean that they are struggling to fight back.
- With more money through Fairtrade they feel more equipped to meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges posed by climate change.

The climate crisis is an immediate and ever-increasing threat and those in climate vulnerable countries are already seeing its impacts from droughts and crop disease to floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests.

With the emergence of the global COVID pandemic, the challenges that farmers face now are bigger than ever before with falling commodity prices and widespread shocks reverberating along our global supply chains. Ongoing poverty in farming communities makes it increasingly hard to cope with the effects of climate change.

Some Events to Choose to Attend Online

Do visit the websites of Fairtrade Foundation or Fairtrade Wales for an overview of activities in Wales and throughout the UK.

[Free Online Festival: Choose The World You Want | Fairtrade Foundation](#)

[Fairtrade Wales Fairtrade Fortnight 2021](#)

Here are some particular events we are want to highlight to you. Several of us are joining the coffee morning with Jenifer on 27th. Feb. (Francis from our group has visited this project)

- On-line Festival: <https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/73941/subscribe/1?ea.tracking.id=fthp2021>
- Youth exhibition: <https://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/teaching-resources/choose-the-world-you-want-an-activity-for-young-people-ages-5-25/>
- Coffee morning with Jenipher, Sat Feb 27, 11 till 12: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-change-coffee-morning-with-jenipher-bore-coffi-newid-yn-yr-hinsaw-tickets-137769687845>

- Swansea 'Climate Justice for a Fairer World' discussion, Thurs March 4th 7pm – 8.30:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-justice-for-a-fairer-world-cyfiawnder-yr-hinsawdd-am-fyd-tecach-tickets-140255069689>
- Fairtrade Connections Poetry evening, Fri March 5th 6.30 till 7.30:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poetry-evening-with-clare-shaw-zoe-brigley-and-kristian-evans-tickets-135857494423>

Resources for Schools

Children and young people will often readily engage with the message of Fairtrade as they want to see a fairer, just world and issues related climate change addressed. If you are working with school age children or are a parent, do check out:

[Teaching Resources | Fairtrade Schools](#)

Looking back -Encouraging outcomes of 2020 Campaigns



Looking Forward- A BRIGHTER 2021

Fairtrade Foundation's CEO Michael Gidney writes:

As we look forward to a brighter 2021, what kind of world do we want to see? I hope this is the opportunity to reset our economy to Build Back Fairer, and this means two things:

1. Remembering how much we depend on producers in low-income countries for the food and products we buy every day. It's scandalous that they should toil in poverty so we can have cheap products. We rely on farmers every day; shouldn't we then treat them as our partners and ensure they are able to earn a living income?
2. Committing as consumers to join the dots. If we are worried about the climate crisis, about child labour, about exploitation of women around the world, about racial injustice, we must make the link to what we buy. Poverty is the missing link in so many corporate 'sustainability' schemes. Fairtrade aims to tackle the cause, where others address the symptoms. We have the power as consumers to bring about amazing change.

There is huge value in working together. Fairtrade producers have shown it this year in how they've supported their communities. We've seen it in the million acts of kindness for others through the pandemic, here and abroad. We can see how we can make trade work for all of us. 2021 is a year to be hopeful, and to carry these stories with us.

Twenty years ago, celebrating her murdered husband's life, Coretta Scott King said: *'The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.'* Covid-19 has shown us just how much we can achieve as a community. Now is the moment to choose the world you want.

Membership Reminder

Our annual membership to Abergavenny Fairtrade Forum runs from March 1st each year. We're grateful to all our supporters who have regular standing orders with us. Your next payment is likely to be taken on March 1st. This is a 'thankful you' in advance to all who support our Forum. Subscriptions are used to fund our activities which we hope we can resume in the autumn. If we have spare funds, we seek to send a donation to Fairtrade Foundation. This helps promote and support Fairtrade producers and provides resources for schools.

Please ask Mary Morgan marynepal@gmail.com our membership secretary if you would like to become a Member of the Forum or if you wish to set up a standing order. It is suggested individuals donate £5 and 2 adult person households £10.

We hope you can all find ways to engage with Fairtrade Fortnight this year despite Covid,

From Abergavenny Fairtrade Forum Team

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