

## CUMBRIA FAIR TRADE NETWORK

### AGM AND OPEN MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015 AT LAKES SCHOOL, TROUTBECK BRIDGE, WINDERMERE

#### **Present:**

Alvaro Pop (Belize); Amy Boud (CDEC); Andrew Longshaw (Brampton); Ann Thomson (Ulverston); Bob Bryden (Keswick); Carole Marsters (Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket); Cherry Robbens (Lakes Parish); Claire Feeney (Carlisle); Delphine Gratrix (Kendal); Elfrieda Warner (Arnside); Frances Green (Lakes Parish); George Wrigley (Lakes Parish); Harry Warner (Arnside); Hilary Pickup (Kendal); Jane Longton (Ulverston); Janet Antrobus (Kendal); Janet Farebrother (Egremont); Jenny Baker (Windermere and Bowness); Jill Human (Keswick); Jo Alberti (Keswick); Joan Pollard (Windermere and Bowness); Joe Human (Keswick); John Hopkins (Brampton); Kate Allan (Brampton); Lee Marlow (Arnside); Martin Sleath (Lake District Local and Fair); Penny Ozanne (Kendal); Rachel Dutfield (Arnside); Robin Sharp (Lakes School); Sally Vaux (Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket); Susan Beale (Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket); Terry Fallows (Wigton); Theresa Wooll (Windermere and Bowness); Trish Fallows (Wigton); Val Towndrow (Millom); Victoria Stephenson (Penrith and Eden)

#### **Apologies:**

Adrian and Mary Law (Kendal); Barbara Gibson (Brampton); Beryl Newbold (Millom); Claire Ward (CDEC); Dare and Joyce Holland (Coniston and Torver); Hazel Graham (Penrith and Eden); Judith Bird (Windermere and Bowness); Katie Carr (CDEC); Murray and Liz Saunders (Kirkby Lonsdale); Neil Hughes (Penrith); Pat Akred (Cockermouth); Rachel Nicholson (Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket)

- i. **Minutes** of the last meeting had been circulated and there were two alterations requested:
  - a) Kendal's Report indicated the pop up shop was open for 2 weeks, 4 days per week but this was incorrect and should have stated it was open for 4 days in total.
  - b) NCC Report stated "Concern that a product may only contain 30% cotton and yet have the new mark". It was believed this should have stated "30% **FAIRTRADE** cotton" and Joe will obtain clarification.The minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved, with Sally Vaux proposing and Trish Fallows seconding.
- ii. The **Treasurer's Report** was circulated and Terry thanked the Independent Examiner Nigel Barker. Terry advised that the Cockermouth Group had closed and its funds of £1,183 transferred to CFTN. Groups in the Network donated £2,500 to bring a producer (Alvaro Pop) for CDEC's World from our Doorstep project. Money that was being held for the Local and Fair event was paid to CDEC. This totalled £815.80.
- iii. Amy gave a **CDEC update** as follows:

In summer 2014 local food producers and crafts people were introduced to schools with an emphasis on parental involvement, for which there was a very positive feedback.

Fairtrade training for teachers was being implemented. Regarding Alvaro Pop's visit, some 14 schools were visited and many more involved in addition to 10 other events/activities. Children had been very interested in how cocoa was grown with some very thoughtful questions posed to Alvaro. CFTN were thanked for helping to fund Alvaro's visit.

Regarding The World from our Doorstep, Year 1 Children met Zogg. Year 2 Thea Discovers Chocolate and currently being planned are "Days in the Life" animations about local producers and Lily's Local Picnic book.

Further enhancement includes a Practitioner Handbook, website and extending to a wider audience.

iv. **Annual Report:**

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year CFTN have met and this was our 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting which attests to durability and continuing commitment. Joe referred the meeting to the written report which summarised the activities of most of the groups in Cumbria. The Grange Group appears to have folded but there are now 23 Fairtrade 'Towns' (villages, zones, boroughs, etc.) in Cumbria, the latest being Dalton-in-Furness. Joe thanked everyone for all they have done and advised the group will meet again in September. The latest Joe was asked to circulate the updated list.

v. **Churches Report:** attached.

vi. **Trade Justice:** Jo sends an update every month, please let her know if you wish to be added to the list.

There are TTIP petitions on various sites. ACP Countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific) are seeing a weakening of their special relationship with the EU. All 79 countries are believed to have signed up to new Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) but benefits are as yet unknown.

WTO Doha Round one aspect signed: the Trade Facilitation Agreement which aims at easing global customs norms. WTO is dominated by the USA and EU but challenged by new member China. India is resisting complete liberalization of the market. The USA continues to pay subsidies, in particular to their cotton farmers but these are dropping.

Harry asked about the elimination of controls on sugar beet farmers and the impact on sugar cane farmers. The Fairtrade Foundation can only campaign for assistance to sugar cane farmers because the removal of restrictions on – subsidised – EU sugar will be removed in 2017.

Susan thanked Jo for all she does for trade justice as this underpins Fairtrade.

vii. **Election of Officers:** Entire group proposed for re-election by Kate Allen and seconded by George Wrigley. **Chair:** Jo Alberti; **Secretary:** Alison McKee (Alison is current recovering from a stroke, but we want to keep the post open for her to take up, if she wants to, when she has recovered); **Treasurer:** Terry Fallows; **Coordinator:** Joe Human; **Committee Members:** Janet Antrobus; Jenny Baker; Cherry Robbens; Jane Longton. **Co-opted Committee Members:** Katie Carr; Susan Beale; Janet Farebrother; Martin Sleath.

viii. **AOB:** A raffle to raise funds for the Malawi Fairtrade farmers devastated by the recent flooding was held (£80.00 was raised).

AGM Business closed at 1045.

**Updates** from group reports are summarized as follows (and are mostly concerning Fairtrade Fortnight activities):

Arnside (Rachel): Primary School Fairtrade Q and A session during Alvaro's visit. It has spurred them on to start process to apply for Fairtrade status.

Brampton (Kate): New Fairtrade banner and recently produced a new Fairtrade directory which is being given out to all B and Bs.

Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket (Susan): Recently produced the first in a series of recipe cards incorporating local and Fairtrade ingredients. Produced their own banner (cost £40). Alvaro came to their coffee morning and also attended a school assembly.

Carlisle (Claire): Cumbria Fair Trade Way leaflet produced (City Council paid for this). Fairtrade T Shirt Design Competition held and design that won will be produced and issued to children who complete the walk. Schools conference was held and 18 schools attended. County Council and the Cumbria Community Foundation both gave the group £1,000.

Co-op (Janet F): The Co-op is being reorganized but Janet hopes she will continue as representative on CFTN. Co-op is still very supportive of Fairtrade.

Coniston (Joyce, though Joe): Still doing lunches incorporating Fairtrade produce and has raised several thousand pounds annually for causes in developing countries. Not known if their Fairtrade status has been renewed.

Egremont (Janet F): There is a Fairtrade stall at Farmers' Market (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month). Profits go to The Fairtrade foundation. Fairtrade and Local recipe book and demonstrations monthly.

Kendal (Janet A): Pop up shop run for six days and sales of £1,200 were realized by selling crafts supplied by Craft Aid, Lancaster. Fairtrade afternoon tea was held at Castle Dairy. Event at Queen Katherine's school. Janet has a "blow up cuppa" if anyone would like to borrow it! It was requested by Joe that if you email him with anything that you can lend, he will circulate to all members.

Keswick: Keswick Rotary and Fairtrade trip to Ethiopia took place in November. Impact of Fairtrade was seen first-hand. Two thirds of farmers belong now to the Fairtrade cooperative. Due to the Fairtrade premium and help from Rotary, a kindergarten has been built at a cost of £40k, also a new road and a computer lab. A micro-loan and coffee upgrading project were started respectively in 2010 and 2013 to help farmers improve their stock by planting new bushes. 3 year loans are available so that farmers can remove a portion of their bushes and replace with new and higher yield bushes. Confidence has grown in the area. Joe said it was a really heartening story.

LDNP: Director of National Park Authority has reasserted support and funding for Local and Fair. Only two members of staff at present on the committee with one more coming to embed what Park

Authority does. Local and Fair event on 1<sup>st</sup> March went well. Not many people due to time of year but those who attended really stayed a long time.

Lakes Parish: Now only five members. New brochure produced in 2014. Display in library during Fairtrade Fortnight and coffee event – four students blitzed the town in banana suits, giving out leaflets.

Millom (Val): All information as circulated with agenda but the group did really well.

Jo gave a plug for Shared Interest

Penrith (Victoria): Participated in a Fairtrade fashion show and the students were really enthusiastic. Victoria has now been selling Fairtrade goods for 30 years.

Wigton (Trish): Trying to convince vicar, who is suspicious of the Foundation's finances, that Fairtrade 'profits', do not go to the Foundation (*Since the AGM Terry has advised that his actual words were, 'The Fairtrade Foundation made £9m from the system'. This was in 2013.*) Joe was going to ask the Fairtrade Foundation regarding funds allocation as the vicar had brought to light that the Foundation is apparently running a high surplus. (*See emails from Joe dated 29.03.15 and 06.04.15*). It was also pointed out that the Fairtrade Foundation announces too late the campaign for Fairtrade Fortnight and also does not make the materials available early enough.

Windermere and Bowness (Theresa): Fairtrade display put in library, posters given to retailers, many of the churches had Fairtrade sales tables. Participated in the Local and Fair event at Brockhole on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Jenny Baker had just returned from another visit to South Africa. Time did not permit her to give a full presentation but she informed the group that she had stayed in three Fair Trade hostels, one of which was owned 100% by the local community. Her trip was again organized by Calabash Tours which takes people into townships. Although they are in business to make a profit, they support ten schools and a care centre.

**Robin Sharp of Lakes School** informed us that the school is part of the Global Learning Programme Initiative and they work with CDEC. Many pupils are very proactive and show excellent leadership skills with the initiatives. Their Fairtrade Group meets every 2 weeks.

After an excellent lunch provided by the Lakes School, **Alvaro Pop**, Chairman of the Toledo Cacao Growers Association in Belize, gave an excellent talk on his organisation. He covered the growing of cocoa, the challenges faced by his farmers and the significance of Fairtrade in strengthening the Association's work with farmers and local communities.

TW

08.04.15