

# Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group AGM, 30 January 2018

St Andrew's Church, Arbroath

Present: Karen Bowie, Caroline Farquhar, Paula Fenwick, Evelyn Fordyce, Janice Swankie

Apologies: Rebecca Brown, Jean Glass, Helen Muir, Margaret Todd, Noela Watson  
The AGM was held first.

Chairperson Evelyn Fordyce opened the meeting by welcoming all.

The Minutes from the AGM of 26 January 2017 were approved by Karen Bowie and seconded by Janice Swankie. EF then gave Chairperson's Report on previous year 2017.

Included in the report were mentions of the many and varied activities that the group had taken part in over the last year.

The Treasurer's Report was then given by JS who noted that the account is healthy. It was proposed that some monies be donated for the promotion of Fairtrade, specifics to be discussed at next meeting. Accounts approved by all those present at the meeting.

Evelyn contacted Sheena Welsh and left a message inviting her to the meeting and if she wishes to remain a member of the Fairtrade Group. Jenifer Lonie and Noela Watson have resigned from the group.

Election of Office Bearers - Committee members re-elected on block approval by all those present at the meeting.

Chairperson - Evelyn Fordyce

Secretary - Paula Fenwick

Treasurer - Janice Swankie

The meeting was then closed and moved onto the ordinary meeting.

## 6) Finance

The group discussed and agreed that churches/schools reps can borrow up to £100 from the Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group to help purchase Fairtrade stock to sell for the promotion of Fairtrade at events that they hold.

This would avoid personal spending by reps that run the Fairtrade stall to be out of pocket. The money would be repaid to the Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group as the stock is sold.

## 7) Date of next meeting

7th February 2018, 7.30 at St. Andrews church.

## ARBROATH FAIRTRADE CHAIRMAN REPORT for 2017

January 2018

- Inner Wheel Talk January 2017. Alice, Helen and I gave a talk at Inner Wheel. We took the FT banner, large displays of photographs and samples of FT products to taste. Inner Wheel were astounded to learn that there were over 4,000 FT products and not all just food, but included cotton clothes, toiletries, wine, flowers, a wide range of products and even gold. We read letters from some to whom Fairtrade had made a major difference to their lives. We described the good work of the Fairtrade Foundation and how to find out more information. Cadbury's was very topical and so this was also discussed and information displayed. Alice a founder member of 17 years with the group, described her many years of voluntary work with OB's FT Café selling Traidcraft products. Alice and Helen described selling FT and Traidcraft regularly at their churches.
- Arbroath FT Action Group AGM January 2017.
- Angus Fairtrade Zone Steering Group meeting January 2017 attended by me in Montrose.
- FT Wine-Tasting and informative Spice Presentation by FT Spice Grower February 2017 in Montrose. Organised by Montrose FT group as zone event. Attended by Rebecca and me, plus three friends making a good representation from our group.
- Women's World Day of Prayer March 2017. Churches united. Prayers and play depicting struggle of women to survive in some countries. Fairtrade fruit distributed during + after service in Knox's Church.
- Pancake Afternoon March 2017 during FT Fortnight was successful and well attended. It was run by the group with Arbroath Academy pupils and Arbroath High School Head Girl assisting. Old and Abbey Church gave their large hall free of charge with thanks to Helen for arranging this. Masses of delicious pancakes were made and served with FT tea and coffee. Thank-you to Janice for making the pancakes and to the bakers. (Still remember Karen's FT chocolate cake and Noeela's tablet. I, too, contributed baking!) Scotmid donated two Fairtrade vouchers for the raffle. Fairtrade hampers being raffled was a novel idea of Karen and popular, as were the home baking, FT and Traidcraft stalls. MP Mike Weir attended. Although the aim was to draw awareness to FT we were pleased with the sum raised. MP Mike Weir was questioned about Brexit by Karen and the impact on Fairtrade. The group received a letter from him on House of Commons notepaper, saying that he had written to Liam Fox, International Trade Secretary, concerning the impact of Brexit on trading conditions for poorer people around the world. Thank-

you to Karen for the involvement of Academy pupils and thank-you to all of the group for making it such a successful event.

- St Thomas RC Church Sunday Tea during FT Fortnight stall, selling a selection of FT goods supplied by Sunrise FT Shop Brechin. FT baked goodies also. FT Palestinian oil sold at St Thomas. Paula involved.
- FT and Traidcraft stall run by Karen + Alice at St Mary's Episcopal Church Spring Fayre April 2017. I contributed and ran home-baking stall including FT ingredients and again free FT fresh coffee and FT chocolate KitKats served by church.
- St Andrew's Church regular FT and Traidcraft Stall after services. At Easter 36 large FT Easter eggs sold. Alice+ Noela have now handed stall to Margaret + Caroline who are doing a great job in FT sales.
- Old and Abbey Church similar with regular stalls and hosted Pancake Afternoon. Thank-you to Jean and Helen for all their dedication and especially to Helen who has had to cut back due to ill health.
- St John's Methodist Church FT tea and coffee and include FT stall at their coffee mornings. Also made pancakes for our pancake afternoon. Thank-you to Janice for her continuous contributions.
- Representation in group from all churches in town, except one. All active in promoting FT. Two churches

regularly sell FT + Traidcraft products after services. Three others have FT stalls at church fayres.

- Christian Aid May 2017. Seven Arbroath churches combined with the Town Mission to collect for Christian Aid — door collections + buckets at Tesco supermarket raising a sizeable sum. Churches also combined for Christian Aid Coffee Morning at Town Mission raising a further sum in excess of £1000.
- At May 2017 meeting of Arbroath FT Action Group, Alice a founder member with 17 years of service to the group, retired. She was presented with a bouquet including FT roses and thanked for her dedication. Alice is still willing to help at events if required.
- Welcomed two new members at same meeting Caroline + Jenny.
- Discussion re. Cadbury withdrawal of FT mark at several meetings.
- The group are concerned that shops do not hold as much FT stock as previously due to price wars and is discussed regularly at meetings. The group has surveyed shops and noted FT products available online by supermarkets nationally and what is on sale in local shops. Content varies from shop to shop and town to town. Concern nationally Sainsbury's to withdraw FT products and that others may follow. (Although Arbroath does not have a Sainsbury store.) Co-op still is the best supplier,

stocking wine + a range of FT products. Display promotion during FT Fortnight. Lidl UK very good at Easter with FT chocolate eggs + bunnies. Morrisons good for FT roses.

- During summer months St Mary's Church began a new venture of Food Share on a fortnightly basis to help eliminate food waste and to remove stigma of foodbanks. Still at early stage, but some FT products included. Free FT coffee available for all and on street outside of church.
- Arbroath FT meeting 22nd August 2017.
- Survey report by Paula on FT supermarkets.
- Dundee and Angus College Freshers' Fayre at Arbroath 31st August 2017 — Jean, Rebecca and me. Fairtrade promotional + information stall. Interest shown by students. Invited to their Christmas Fayre.
- Angus Fairtrade Zone Steering Group meeting 12th September attended by Janice and me in Forfar.
- September to November compiling application Renewal of Arbroath Fairtrade Status.
- Renewal submitted + acknowledged in November by Fairtrade Foundation. PDF sent to group members.
- Arbroath FT Group meeting 23rd November. Welcomed Margaret, Learned of her large sale of FT Advent calendars at St Andrews Church. Margaret did much FT promotion at Ferryden Primary School. She is now a teacher at Ladyloan and hope that she can encourage Fairtrade here.
- I was informed by Timmergreens Head Teacher that they now have a Fairtrade group in school.
- Arbroath Academy Dodge Ball competition linked with Children in Need. Use of FT balls. FT bananas donated by Timmergreens Co-op as prizes. Academy have achieved their second award and now working on attaining their third award. Well done to Karen for inspiring pupils with her FT enthusiasm.
- St Mary's Church Christmas Fayre 25th November. Alice and Jfion on FT Stall. Almost sold out! Banner + promotional posters on display. I was on a Christmas basket/hamper stall, FT products included in some. Chocolate tombola stall with Cadbury prizes. Fresh FT coffee + mincemeat pies were served free.
- Angus College Christmas Fayre 1st December. Janice, Rebecca and I set up a stall.
- Academy Christmas Concert with FT Stall by pupils.

- Sacred Grounds Coffee did exceptionally well at Christmas in the sale of FT sourced coffee beans. Roast in own Arbroath roastery + sell commercially. Kathryn Baker proprietor interested in our group.
- Angus Zone Meeting attended by me. Proposal that Arbroath host a wine tasting event on rd March during FT fortnight. Scotmid to supply wine.

Thank - you to everyone in the group for all your input. Thank-you especially to Alice, Helen and Noela who retired this year. Also to former Councillor Sheena Welsh, whom we hope is to return to our group. They all have given freely much of their time over the years to help support Fairtrade. Thanks to St Andrews for use of their hall for our meetings. Welcome to our new members. We look forward to new ventures this year. Wine tasting; Planet Pondie; learning more of Sacred Grounds: Farmers Markets etc.

Evelyn Fordyce

30th January, 2018