

Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group

Minutes of Meeting — 29th January 2019, St Andrews Church, Arbroath

Present: Paula Fenwick, Evelyn Fordyce, Jean Glass Janice Swankie, Margaret Todd,
Apologies: Rebecca Brown, Karen Bowie, Caroline Farquhar.

Minutes of previous meeting — 13/3/18 approved.

1) Matters arising

Rescheduled Wine tasting event — listed below agenda item 4.

2) Churches

Evelyn's chairman report lists details of the activities that have taken place over the year since our last meeting in March 2018.

3) Schools

Arbroath Academy — The Academy has now achieved Fairtrade status — congratulations to all the pupils and staff for this outstanding achievement.

4) FT zone update

Rescheduled Wine Tasting evening.

After the postponement of the wine tasting event due to the inclement weather in March 2018, it was hoped that the group would have been able to hold the event at a later time in the year. Unfortunately due to various circumstances the event did not take place however the group is proposing to schedule the event for this year in May 2019. It is hoped that the Old and Abbey can still host the event and Evelyn and Jean will liaise with each other on this.

- Venue - Old and Abbey
- Time and Date (1715119 being the preferred date)
- Compere (Evelyn confirming), Tickets and Posters, will need adjusted — (speak to

Kelly Ann Dempsey) and Ticket price - £5

- Format for the evening - quiz and Fairtrade film along with the wine tasting Evelyn attended the Zone meeting in October, held at Madison's in Montrose and the zone meeting minutes that were circulated by Kelly Ann were updated by Evelyn and returned — PF circulated the amended updated copy to the group by email prior to this meeting. No further comments received.

The Zone group has organised a visit to Sacred Grounds (coffee roasters), Arbroath and Evelyn will be attending.

5) Fairtrade Fortnight — 25th Feb — 10th March 2019

Events will be taking place at each of the churches and school that had representation at the meeting tonight and this year's theme is Chocolate. Fairtrade foundation have a petition as well so PF will check website and hopefully download a copy and circulate as this would be good to have if running an event during the fortnight. After Fairtrade fortnight can we gather information on all events held in Arbroath so we can keep to report back to the zone and for future reaccreditation status — an email to myself (Paula) would suffice. Thanks in advance.

6) Date of next meeting

The group numbers are now very low so all things considered by those at the meeting the next date would be in six (6) months' time. Any Fairtrade requests for talks or events that are planned could be communicated to group members by email or phone therefore collectively the Fairtrade group are still in touch and recording any Fairtrade activities that may happen throughout the year.

The group hope to have a meeting at the start of April (6th) to help with the planning of the Wine Tasting event however may have to do this through email and phone if difficulties encountered in getting numbers together.

29th January, 2019

ARBROATH FAIRTRADE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 10th January, 2018 I attended Fairtrade Zone Meeting held in Angus House, Forfar
- Arbroath FT AGM 30th January 2018 held in St Andrew's Church.
- Meeting 7th February to arrange Zone Wine Tasting.
- Arbroath Fairtrade Status was renewed on 31st January 2018 and certificate received shortly afterwards in the post. An accompanying letter of congratulations from the Foundation praised us for our work. The FT Foundation was impressed by events which we had held and in particular collaborative events in the region. They also thanked us for sharing photographs of the community coming together for these events.
- A presentation ceremony of the certificate took place in Arbroath Library on 22nd March.

As Chairman I was honoured to present the certificate to the Library to put on display, reminding citizens of Arbroath that we are a Fairtrade town. Current members attended and also former Chairpersons Mary Reid and Pat Millar. We were also very pleased that Sheena Welsh attended.

An official photograph and press report appeared in "The Courier" and "Arbroath Herald".

- A Zone Wine Tasting event was scheduled for 2nd March , but due to the severe snow, "The Beast from the East" it was cancelled. The intention was to hold the event later in the year. However, owing to other commitments from group members, it became difficult to arrange. It is hoped to hold a similar event this year during FT Fortnight.
- Kirstene Hair was invited last year, but due to Westminster duties was unable to attend, but hopes to attend future events.
- Arbroath Day hosted by Arbroath Rotary Club — 20th April. We had a Fairtrade Stall promoting Fairtrade which generated interest from the public. It was an all day event from 10am to 4pm. Other organisations in the town were present, so the event drew an audience from a variety of different groups.
- St Mary's Church Spring Fayre 28th April was another opportunity to promote Fairtrade.
- Christian Aid Coffee Morning 19th May uniting all churches in the town to raise funds for Christian Aid. (Not Fairtrade, but churches working together to help end world poverty.)
- Arbroath Churches — St Andrew's, Old & Abbey, St Thomas, St John's and St Mary's all do their part in selling and promoting Fairtrade. St Andrew's sold a remarkable number of FT Easter eggs/ bunnies and Advent Calendars. Thanks to Margaret Todd and Caroline Farquhar members of St Andrew's for their record sales. St Andrew's and Old & Abbey hold regular FT stalls. Thanks to Jean Glass and Helen Muir for their many years of selfless work at Old & Abbey. St Thomas sells FT products including Palestinian oil. Thanks to Paula Fenwick for her work here and to Janice Swankie for her work at St John's. St John's and St Mary's have coffee mornings serving FT coffee and promoting FT. At St Mary's Christmas Fayre there was a chocolate tombola stall with many FT chocolate prizes. FT Christmas baskets including wine at Christmas Fayre. St Mary's provide free FT coffee at church sales and events. Rebecca Brown and Evelyn Fordyce are St Mary's members.
- Congratulations to Arbroath Academy in being awarded Fairtrade Status, gaining their third award. The pupils have worked very hard over several years to achieve this. We acknowledge the staff for their contribution in promoting Fairtrade at the Academy. In particular thanks to Karen Bowie for her dedication and enthusiasm in working with the pupils.
- Ladyloan Primary School. Thanks also to Margaret Todd, another enthusiastic group member, who teaches at Ladyloan and promotes Fairtrade in school.
- Timmergreens Primary School has now formed a Fairtrade group and we have been invited to speak in school to assist pupils in their Fairtrade project.

- Sacred drouds are doing very well at Farmers' Mirkets in Arbroath and other Angus towns. They have a large trade in supplying FT coffee to commercial companies in the UK. A zone meeting to visit Arbroath Sacred Grounds is being arranged for either February or March.
- "Planet Pondie" by Keptie Friends did not happen, but may another year.
- Zone Meeting in Montrose Maddison's FT Coffee Shop 20th October 2018 which I attended.
- Thanks to our Secretary Paula Fenwick and Treasurer Janice Swankie for their work.
- Thank-you to all for attending meetings and for the efforts shown by everyone in trying to promote Fairtrade.

Evelyn Fordyce (Chairperson)