

# Gosport Fairtrade Action

Promoting FAIRTRADE in the Borough of Gosport

[www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/](http://www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/)

(go to Gosport page)



[www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

## Newsletter

No 6 June 2011

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## About Gosport Fairtrade Action (GFA)

GFA has been promoting Fairtrade in Gosport since 2006. We achieved Fairtrade Borough Status\* in 2008 and in 2009 secured its renewal until 2011, so we are due to renew again this year.

Members are drawn from a range of voluntary organisations, schools, churches, businesses, various political parties and religious groups and elected and staff members of Gosport Borough Council.

We explain about Fairtrade to local schools, community groups, employers, shops and catering establishments encouraging them to use and make Fairtrade products available. We provide information which enables people in Gosport to choose to deal fairly with disadvantaged producers in developing countries and make the world fairer today and sustainable tomorrow.

### \* As a Fairtrade Borough Gosport meets Five Goals:

1. the Borough Council passed a resolution to support Fairtrade and to serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at meetings and in its offices;
2. has a range of Fairtrade products sold in at least, 16 shops [now 24] and in 8 cafés and catering establishments [now 13];
3. some local work places and community organisations use Fairtrade products;
4. attract media coverage and popular support
5. has an active Steering Group

## AGM 2011

At the AGM on June 15<sup>th</sup>, the following were elected to serve until June 2012

Chair	Vacant
Hon.Sec.	Sarah Hirom
Treasurer	Tricia Stephenson
Press Officer	Vacant
Minutes Sec.	Tara Fisher

### GFA welcomes new volunteers

Founder members, Mary and Michael Heaps, have retired from the Steering Group. They provided vital leadership from the start of GFA, Mary serving as the initial Chair (2006-8) and Michael serving variously as Treasurer and latterly Chair in 2009-10. GFA is deeply grateful for their unwavering support and we shall miss their ideas and wise counsel.

## Annual Review 2010-11

### Supporters and Links

We enjoy good working relationships with Gosport Borough Council and the Co-op.

GFA is grateful for donations received from the Co-op and many individuals.

Our thanks go to Councillor Mr Roger Allen, for his interest and support during his term as Mayor.

GFA is a member of Gosport Voluntary Action.

## Updating the Directory

Since this was published in summer 2008, a few outlets listed have ceased to exist but new ones have qualified as two product outlets, especially since Cadbury's Dairy Milk and some Kit Kat bars became Fairtrade. The directory on the website ([www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/where-can-i-buy/](http://www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk/where-can-i-buy/)) is updated regularly.

*Now the bar has been raised and retailers are required to stock four products to qualify, but catering outlets still only need two.*



**We plan to survey all outlets over the summer of 2011. Please let us know of any changes. We would greatly appreciate offers of help with the new survey.**

**Highlights of the year**

GFA has organised and supported many events and activities, with the aim of reaching Gosport residents, young and old, in a wide range of contexts – local councillors and Town Hall staff, library users, church congregations, businesses, community festivals and competitions.



The national theme for Fairtrade Fortnight was “Show Off Your Label” and we concentrated on Fairtrade Cotton.

**The Bunting Challenge**

We contributed to the National effort which beat the Guinness World Record for hand decorated cotton bunting. The record stood at: 2,696 metres of individual, hand-made, bunting triangles. The National Target was 4,350 metres (over two and a half miles!) which required 12,500 decorated flags, made of Fairtrade cotton, of course, to be sent to the Fairtrade Foundation – one for each Fairtrade cotton farmer in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Schools and church groups throughout Gosport decorated flags. Here the Stoke Road Methodist Women’s Fellowship are hard at work.



Give, gain and grow’, a group based at Gosport Voluntary Action also participated enthusiastically. The Waterside Community Church was festooned with bunting following their participation, as was Gomer Junior School which hosted a schools event in Fairtrade Fortnight

**Schools Cotton on to Fairtrade**

GFA contacted 32 schools in Gosport of which 10 sent delegates to “show off” and celebrate their schools’ work about Fairtrade and learn from each other. Schools

displayed samples of their work, including posters, bunting, a PowerPoint presentation, games, a Fairtrade product tasting



Gomer Juniors tasting table of Fairtrade products

and even a dance routine showing off Fairtrade cotton clothing.



Locomotion Dance troop from Brune Park College

They worked together on a collage made of Fairtrade product wrappers.



The Mayor, Councillor Roger Allen, hosted the event at Gomer Junior School and the Southern Co-op provided refreshments.



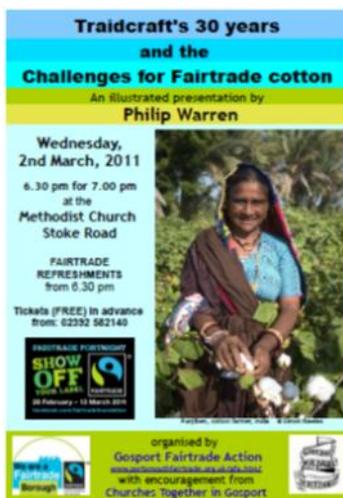
After the event, the Mayor invited the delegates to the Town Hall where he presented each school with a certificate of appreciation for promoting understanding about Fair Trade in our Fairtrade Borough.

## The Banner



Each school presented to the Mayor a decorated panel made from Fairtrade cotton. These panels, together with one from Gosport Borough Council, by Nuisha Abab, and one from GFA, by Ellen Coughlin, were then made into a banner by Ann Rolfe, a technician at Brune Park Community College. We are very grateful for all the unstinting support of these individuals and schools.

## Fairtrade Fortnight and the churches



GFA, with the encouragement of Churches Together in Gosport, worked with the Methodist Church, in Stoke Road, to host an event which we hoped would help to reinvigorate interest in Fairtrade.

Philip Warren gave an informative and inspiring talk to the representatives from ten churches present

on: "Traidcraft's 30 years and the challenges for Fairtrade cotton" which stimulated a good discussion.

## Library Exhibitions

The Discovery Centre in April 2011 had a large exhibition, "Schools Cotton on to Fairtrade", featuring the Banner and Bunting together with work and activities related to the Fairtrade Fortnight event.



Discovery Centre

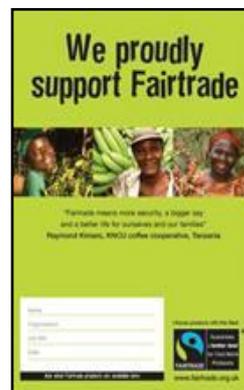


The two sides of the display at Elson Library

Smaller versions went to Elson in May 2011 and Bridgemary in June 2011 featuring work of the schools in each area respectively.



## Working with Businesses



This continues to be a priority focus for us.

We would like to see all businesses in Gosport displaying this sign which indicates the business uses Fairtrade refreshments at its meetings and for its staff and clients.



**Gosport Business Forum** – GFA members make contact with local businesses at some of these meetings.

## Business in Hampshire

GFA agreed to form Hampshire Fairtrade Network with other local Fairtrade Groups and to join the **Hampshire Chamber of Commerce**. GFA has attended two 'Meet the Chamber' network meetings where, together with Fareham, Portsmouth and Havant Groups, we gave publicity to 'Fairtrade at Work'. Free samples of Divine Chocolate drew appreciative attention!



Sue James (left) Portsmouth with Sarah Hirom (right) with the "Fairtrade at Work" stall at the 'Meet the Chamber' Meeting at Highbury College

## News of Schools and Colleges

Bay House School, Bridgemary Community Sports College and Brune Park Community College have each registered to apply for Fairtrade School Status and are progressing towards the award. They were all involved with 'Schools Cotton on to Fairtrade'.

**GFA wishes these initiatives every success** and is delighted to work with them. We are keen to hear from any other educational establishments in the Borough who would like talks, displays or to discuss Fairtrade Schools scheme.

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/>

We are several steps nearer to having a school in Gosport that can say ...



**Fareport College** has invited GFA to talk to its students on several occasions. In Autumn 2010 they borrowed the exhibition about the "Role of Fairtrade in Tackling Poverty and Protecting the Environment" to coincide with a visit from the MP, Caroline Dineage, and students questioned her about the use of Fairtrade products in the House of Commons.

## Churches

In 2010-11 GFA members were very pleased that a number of Churches participated in the Fairtrade Fortnight activities in 2011(see p 2). We are aware that, while some Churches continue to have regular Traidcraft stalls, others no longer do so for various reasons.

**Please invite us to talk to Church groups and congregations about the vital work that Fairtrade does to enable people to work their way out of poverty and invest in their community, achieving a fulfilled and dignified life.**

## Voluntary Organisations and Societies

GFA offers talks about various aspects of Fairtrade. In 2011, 'Give, Gain, Grow' at Gosport Voluntary Action took part in the Bunting Challenge.

**Would your Church, Community Association, Club, or Residents Association like to have:**

- a speaker or presentation
- a display
- a quiz

**about Fairtrade?**

**For more information contact GFA on 02392 582140 or via the Website**

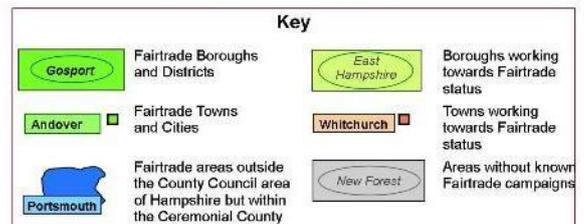
## HAMPSHIRE FAIRTRADE NETWORK

was constituted in November 2010. Seventeen groups in Hampshire, all recognised by the

Fairtrade Foundation, were eligible to be members. At its first Gathering and AGM at Winchester in May 2011, nine groups were represented, Kate Sebag of Tropical Wholefoods gave a guest address, and much useful exchange between groups took place. Its website is at: [www.fairtradeinhampshire.org.uk](http://www.fairtradeinhampshire.org.uk)

### FAIRTRADE IN HAMPSHIRE

Over half of the population in Hampshire live in areas with Fairtrade status



©Hampshire FA

20.01.2011

This map is part of an exhibition available for loan

## Resources GFA can offer

**Locally produced** [phone 9258 2140]:

**GFA can offer exhibitions and/or talks with PowerPoint presentations**, customised for your school or organisation, on the following topics

- Introduction to Fairtrade
- Fairtrade towns
- Fairtrade churches
- Small scale tea growers in South India
- Fairtrade in the USA
- Fairtrade, environment & climate change
- Fairtrade in conflict zones

**GFA website** Shared with Portsmouth and Havant with a section for each group.

[www.portsmouthfairtrade.org](http://www.portsmouthfairtrade.org)

Gosport's section has a directory; forthcoming events; meeting dates; reports of events for Gosport.

A shared section contains information & ideas for businesses, schools, places of worship; plus news and commentary about Fairtrade issues in the news.

**The Fairtrade Foundation Website** has more:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>