

CARLISLE ONE WORLD CENTRE

Newsletter Spring 2006

Welcome!

It's certainly been a busy few months for the fairtraders. But a rewarding one too, culminating in Cumbria being awarded Fairtrade County status at a wonderful evening in Keswick on the 11th of March. This newsletter will give you a flavour of the many events that took place during the first few weeks of March as well as the ongoing initiatives that volunteers of all ages are engaged with in Carlisle, Brampton and elsewhere.

Don't forget to put the **15th of June** in your diaries for the AGM to be held at 7:30pm in the Church of Scotland Hall. This year we will be presenting an audio-visual display of our achievements throughout COWC's areas of work. It will be a celebratory evening, combining the presentation of reports and voting in of a new committee with photos, videos and short inputs. We also hope to launch our new website!

Look out for the symbols throughout the newsletter that will indicate ways you can get involved from drawing up a database of fairtrade businesses in Carlisle to donating books to the Christian Aid book sale. The Fairtrade steering group is particularly looking for new volunteers this month to reflect their increased workload and the strong commitment to keep this campaign going!

Volunteers Required here

Contact the centre to leave your name and the group leader/organiser will get back to you to let you know how you can get involved.

I hope you like the new pdf format – it will make the email version a lot easier to download. Please let me know if you have any problems opening the file.

Finally, if you are organising an event or you wish to write an article about a development issue, do let us know! Send your contributions to adrienne.gill@yahoo.co.uk for my attention.

Adrienne Gill

COWC Diary Dates

14-20 May Christian Aid Week
19-20 May Book sale at St George's United Reformed Church, Warwick Road (Collection on 18 May)



15 June COWC AGM, Church of Scotland Hall, Chapel St
Tea/coffee from 7:00pm
Meeting at 7:30pm

All members and supporters are welcome!

NB

If you have any photos or visual records from COWC's achievements over the past year, could you please forward them to adrienne.gill@yahoo.co.uk or leave them in COWC for my attention.

Also

Anyone interested in the post of Secretary on COWC's committee, please contact COWC before the AGM.

Volunteers Required here



Company No.: 4171758
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- In partnership with -



Fairtrade Fortnight

6 – 19 March 2006

Carlisle, Brampton, Keswick.....



For Fairtrade Fortnight 2006 we had three main events on Friday 10th March. Firstly, between 10am and 12 noon, we held a coffee morning in the Old Town Hall with information stalls. This had a fantastic turn out and was the perfect opportunity to launch our new information point (see below).

Running on the same morning, we brought the young people of the city together to meet Shailesh Patel a speaker from Agrocel, a Fairtrade Cotton company in India who spent three days touring and speaking at Fairtrade events in the county. Ten primary school children, who were the winners of a Fairtrade poster competition, baked Fairtrade banana muffins with Victoria Holt, manager of Prior's Kitchen Restaurant. Twelve sixth formers representing 6th Form Fairtrade groups swapped ideas over coffee and cake. The mayor attended this event and enjoyed meeting Mr Patel and the young people. She presented certificates and Fairtrade chocolate Easter Eggs to the winners of the schools poster competition.

After the coffee morning, Shailesh Patel gave a lunchtime talk to a packed room. This was well received and an excellent opportunity to recruit new volunteers.

Our young adult volunteers celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight by gathering for a drumming workshop and pizza night. It was wonderful to see twenty-five young people celebrate the difference they have made in their schools, and to producers in developing countries. Many other events took place during the fortnight, run by our wide support base.

Fairtrade Schools

Many schools across Carlisle have now become involved in Fairtrade. Three volunteers from COWC visited, between them, fifteen primary schools in the Carlisle area to speak about the campaign.

The children enjoyed making a lot of noise and taking part in these assemblies. It is hoped that they also went away with an idea of how to make the world a better place. Some primary schools have taken this further - Belah primary school, for example, will be holding a Fairtrade Fashion show.

The secondary schools have also had a busy term. Austin Friars St Monica's, St Aidan's and Trinity secondary schools continue to run regular stalls for parents and staff. Students at Trinity have delivered Fairtrade assemblies to pupils lower down in the school making sure that the Fairtrade message is heard and understood.

Fairtrade Schools - Austin Friars St Monica's
 In October 2005 Austin Friars St. Monica's School opened a Fairtrade Stall, run as part of the sixth form Charities Committee. Open every Friday during morning break, it has proved a huge success with pupils and staff. Apart from the sale of goods, the group attends school events when possible to help promote awareness of the Fairtrade mark. *Louise Wisdom*

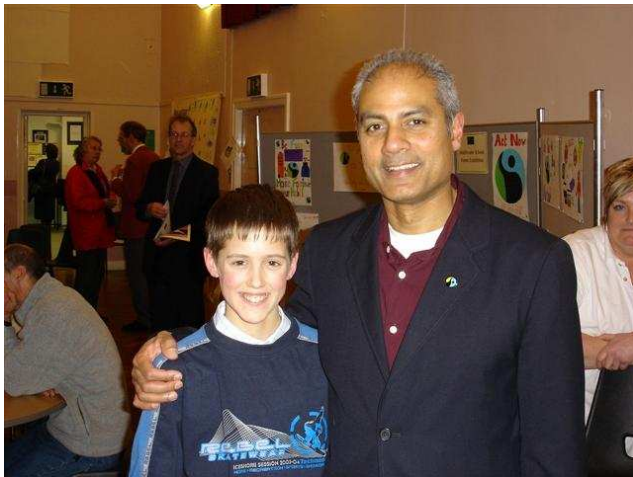


Fairtrade stand at Carlisle Library

A Fairtrade County!

On Saturday 11 March over 30 Fairtraders from **Carlisle and Brampton** joined more than 200 campaigners from all over Cumbria for a reception in Keswick to celebrate the awarding of Fairtrade status to Cumbria. George Alagiah, BBC News Presenter and Patron of the Fairtrade Foundation presented the award to Cllr. John Collier, Chair of the County Council. Cumbria has become only the second county in England after Somerset to get this status – this is an achievement we are all proud of!

The award means Cumbria has met five key criteria set out by the Fairtrade Foundation which are aimed at promoting the Fairtrade mark and giving a better deal to farmers in developing countries. There are currently eight towns, districts, and villages in Cumbria with Fairtrade status, including Carlisle and Brampton, with six more in the



George Alagiah with COWC's youngest volunteer and Fairtrade activist, David

pipeline. Spread over the county are many Fairtrade schools, churches, and large numbers of schools and community groups supporting Fairtrade. In addition dozens of restaurants and cafés, hotels and guest houses now serve Fairtrade teas and coffees; and a large number of shops sell a huge range of Fairtrade products.

Joe Human, Coordinator of Cumbria Fair Trade Network, said: "This is a tremendous achievement. Cumbria is second to none in the take-up of Fairtrade and many firms in the Cumbrian tourism sector realise that Fairtrade is good for business too.

"There is also a growing understanding of the similarities between small producers in our part of the world and small producers overseas,".

Five million farmers, workers and their families in 58 countries across the world are benefiting from the Fairtrade mark. At the reception on Saturday evening, Shailesh Patel, spoke about the many benefits to local farmers and their communities of being part of the fairtrade movement.

More Volunteers required to join the Fairtrade Steering Group

Carlisle has had fairtrade city status for over a year now but the fairtrade movement is growing from strength to strength. One of the activities we require a volunteers for is to draw up a list of Carlisle businesses and to contact them with information about becoming a fairtrade business. Contact COWC if you are interested in coming on board!

Volunteers Required here

Fair Trade Hotels & Guest Houses

Anyone out there who would like to help with approaching hotels etc & compiling a directory of Carlisle guest houses offering FT tea, coffee etc? Contact Carol Barber (01228 526436) or at COWC.

Volunteers Required here

Carlisle Fairtrade City Information Point

At the coffee morning on 10th March we launched our new Fairtrade City Information Point. Designed and made (out of a large cardboard box!) by Alison Dyer-Smith, the Information Point is colourful and professional. It is easily assembled and collapses (when you want it to!) It can be carried short distances on foot or transported by car. It has general leaflets on Fair Trade, together with information on how to participate in promoting Fairtrade in Carlisle – by shopping, going to cafes, or by using Fairtrade at the workplace, church or other community organisations. The Information Point lives in the entrance lobby of "Bookcase", 17 Castle Street, Carlisle. It can be borrowed by phoning Jacqueline Barton on Carlisle 528819 or by phoning Carlisle One World Centre. We hope that it will help to increase awareness of Fairtrade by reaching a wide public. It is free standing and takes up very little space. If you would like a speaker to introduce it, briefly, let us know. Use it if you can!

And here it is....



Christian Aid Week 14 to 20 May 2006



Christian Aid is one of the country's largest aid organisations and is the biggest provider of development grants. Christian Aid works directly with over 500

partner organisations in developing countries. Last year over £80m was raised for Christian Aid, of which Christian Aid Week collections and activities raised over £15m, an all time record.

This year Christian Aid Week runs from 14 to 20 May. We kicked off our local preparations with an event in the Carlisle Old Town Hall on 30th March. This was mainly for church organisers, but anyone with an interest in Christian Aid was invited to attend. Several people from COWC were there, and it was great that we were able to fill the Old Town Hall meeting room.

The main speaker was Arton Medd, a Christian Aid organiser who talked about his recent time in Rwanda visiting development projects supported by Christian Aid. These projects are all helping communities to recover from the dreadful genocide in 1994. They are all run by local partner groups, who make their own decisions about priorities, so Christian Aid money goes directly to local people who know best how to make best use of resources. One such group is Tuzamurane, which means "helping each other to climb". Some of its members are developing bee keeping, as seen in the picture.

Tony Parrini and Mel Robinson from Churches Together in Carlisle, Roy Ellis, Christian Aid's regional officer for Cumbria, and Doug Scott, who is organising Christian Aid Week in Carlisle this year, also spoke and contributed to an excellent evening.



Bee Keeping Project, Rwanda

As always during Christian Aid Week, there will be house-to-house collections this year, with the famous red envelopes, covering many parts of Carlisle and surrounding towns and villages. Much as we would like to, we can't cover every street and house. People not covered by

house-to-house collections can leave a donation at the World Shop in Lowthian Lane, where COWC will be providing a collecting point. Alternatively, anyone can donate by email via the Christian Aid website or by telephone on 0145 700300.

Many churches are carrying out other events such as coffee mornings, during Christian Aid Week, and in particular the United Reform Church is running a **BIG BOOK SALE**, which will be open on **Friday 19th May (10 am to 4 pm)** and **Saturday 20th May (10 am to 1 pm)** at St. George's United Reformed Church, Warwick Road. It's well worth a visit! There will be books, DVD's, CD's, and video and audio tapes. If anyone is downsizing their collection and can give any items for the sale, the church will be open on **Thursday 18th May** from 10am to 3pm to receive items.



Volunteers Required here

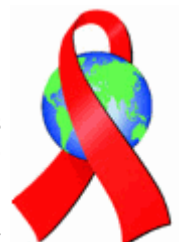
As well as providing money for development and for disaster relief, Christian Aid also campaigns with other organisations for fair trade. Postcards to the Prime Minister supporting fair trade, as opposed to free trade, will be in many churches, and will also be available at the World Shop.

The Carlisle Christian Aid Group is supported by Churches Together in Carlisle, and also has a close association with COWC. For the past few years, Agnes Herbert has co-ordinated Christian Aid Week, and although now living in Portsmouth, is still helping with the book sale. We are reviving a small Christian Aid Steering Group for the Carlisle area, to provide wider support to local churches and generally promote and develop Christian Aid work. If you are interested in joining the Steering Group, or helping Christian Aid generally, do contact Doug Scott (scott@vandydoug.freeserve.co.uk or 016974 73556)

Doug Scott

HIV/AIDS Project Update

I was given the challenge of developing a presentation aimed at raising the awareness within the 16 - 18 age group. The initial topic of these presentations has been the HIV/AIDS pandemic and had two aims: exploring and challenging existing knowledge of the virus, the disease and their effects on the individual and secondly



to try and outline the effects HIV/AIDS is having throughout the world, especially in developing countries. It was also hoped that these presentations might fulfil some aspects of both the Citizenship and PSHE curriculum.

I delivered an initial presentation back at the start of March to years 12 & 13 at Trinity, Carlisle utilizing both Powerpoint and poster based "characters. The response from pupils and staff at the school was positive and I will now look to develop the presentation and work with many more schools and colleges in the near future.

Volunteers Required here

If you are interested in joining David on this project, contact COWC.

David Nelson

World Shop News

Traidcraft has just been pleased to report that we spent £14,421.17 with them during the 2005/2006 financial year. However, for the first time since we opened, sales have been down on last year in February (£156), March (£709) and April (£718), though of course still up on the first year.

The Chandni Chowk summer wave of clothes will not be in until the end of May at the earliest. It is difficult when our clothes arrive much later than the other stores, but of course deadlines can be part of the problem for those who work in factories to produce these clothes.

In the last newsletter we wrote about the FAIRTRADE mark having been awarded to cotton. So we were particularly pleased to meet Shailesh Patel and hear him speak about Agrocel fairtrade and organic cotton during Fairtrade Fortnight. We were already familiar with the Agrocel label on Traidcraft and Bishopston clothes before the mark was awarded.

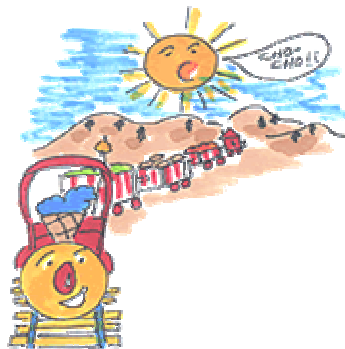
Shailesh spoke very highly of Bishopston Trading Company who hand weave and tailor the Agrocel cotton in the village of K.V. Kuppam in South India. They have recently completed a new building that harvests rainwater, with tailoring units, a crèche, canteen and guesthouse.

We are proud to have so many items with the new FAIRTRADE mark in the spring clothing collection for the first time. Traidcraft, Bishopston, People Tree, Gossipium and Raipal all have the new mark on the cotton: L S.

Development Education

The CDEC project continues in Carlisle, Eden and elsewhere in the county.

Vimala John – Schools project worker, Carlisle & Eden; 016974 76670; vimikrishjohn@aol.com



Keeping Diversity on Track

This is a DfID funded project linking schools along the Settle Carlisle line. The broad aim of this project is to increase understanding of the richness and interdependence of cultural diversity in the schools and communities involved in the project.

One of the specific goals was to encourage the schools and communities involved in the project promote awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Following discussion all the schools in the project opted to explore MDGs: 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and 8. Develop a global partnership for development. It was felt that in doing some of the values underpinning the MDGs such as freedom, human rights, equality, interdependence, solidarity, social justice and shared responsibility could be explored.

Activities that linked in with the chosen MDG's were carried out in schools during Fairtrade Fortnight. These activities helped to raise awareness on a range of issues around poverty and hunger.

Fairtrade fortnight events

- Fairtrade coffee morning with parents & community members @ Long Marton School. A tremendous range of cakes and biscuits made by the children using fair trade products were served. A PowerPoint Presentation by the pupils enabled parents, grandparents and other community members to understand some of the issues surrounding Fair Trade. There was also an impressive and extensive display of how fair trade products such as banana, cocoa and coffee were produced along with some touching poems and stories written by the pupils.
- Fairtrade assembly with Whole World Cake as focus with parents present @ Petheril Bank School. The pupils had worked previously with Colin Harbach in looking at fair trade products and had made a Whole World cake using Fairtrade products where possible. They gave a talk about the Fairtrade products they had used and read some poems that they had written. Fair Trade coffee, tea and delicious cakes baked by the children and staff was then served.
- Fairtrade tea event with parents and pupils playing the Market Game with parents @ Caldew Lea School.

Some older pupils had chosen to give talks to other year groups about fairtrade throughout the fortnight.

- There were other smaller fairtrade events in Ings primary School Skipton and in Poplar farm Primary school in Bradford who are our Yorkshire partners in this project.

Update on Food Voucher Scheme

We have been fortunate to get a grant of £750 from Neighbourhood Forum to re-energise the Scheme which had not been used much after the initial launch in 2000. We are now working with Caroline Kennedy & 3 agencies which work with vulnerable young people in the city to distribute the vouchers paid for by the grant. Originally churches asked for the Scheme to be set up to cater for the homeless people approaching them for money 'for food'. However, research has shown that the priority has shifted to young people. Vouchers are still available from the One World Centre (£5.50 each) should you wish to buy them. Once the grant has run out, we shall have to assess the viability of the scheme & reconsider the funding issue later in the year.

Carol Barber

Chaplain's Report

At UCLAN's Carlisle campus we have been really pleased to welcome around 40 students from northern Nigeria. With the exception of one, all this year's Nigerian cohort are muslim. They arrived in January and have adjusted well to life in Carlisle, despite a very cold start!



It has been fascinating to talk with and get to know several of them.

The newly set up Quiet Room is a place they use for prayer at lunch times, and they also come to chat and make contact there. Some were made very welcome at the Tithe Barn by Richard Pratt, and were

taken round the Cathedral and had a quick look in at the vicarage!

Last week I asked one of these students to come to Carlisle College and chat to a small group about his life, faith and what he perceived to be good and bad about British society. We had a very interesting discussion, as you can imagine! This took place within the context of Soul Food , a weekly meeting point for a group at college who want to talk about current affairs, and how faith fits or doesn't in lives today.

I am still spending time with special needs students on a Wednesday afternoon. Before Easter we had a trip to Tullie House that ended in an egg hunt, and we plan to go out to Talkin tarn at the end of this term. Usually though, we chat, have some refreshments and do whatever the people involved feel like doing that particular day. Often we play games, and I am beginning to introduce quiet time and prayer at the end of the session for those who would like it. For several of these students, this is an opportunity to share the things that they find difficult in their daily lives, and for some a chance to talk about achievements.

Gurdev, the multi-faith development officer for the North West who has recently been appointed by NEAFE (National Ecumenical Agency for Faith in FE), visited Carlisle College last term. He is a Sikh, and we had a positive discussion about holding a diversity week in June.

Summer is looming! At the university campus, teaching is winding down and many students are finishing assignments. Staff coffee continues... a great way of staying in touch. We now know that if all goes to plan we are to become part of St. Martin's/ University of Cumbria, so some at least of the uncertainty that has been around, has cleared. Thank you all for your interest and support.

Caroline Kennedy

Contact us:

**Carlisle One World Centre
3 Lowthian's Lane
English Street
Carlisle CA3 8JR
Email: cowc@fish.co.uk
Tel: 01228 546287
Fax: 01228 550385**

**Chair: Greg Turner 01228 521509
Secretary: Lorna Strong 01228 550385
Treasurer: Keith Burrow 01228 522645**