

Scottish Fair Trade Forum

Helping Scotland Become a Fair Trade Nation



April 2008

Focus on Trocaploc

Plockton High School's Fair Trade group, 'Trocaploc,' began in 2005. Inspired by language teacher Louisa McInnes, a group of 6th year students set up a lunchtime stall selling fair trade products. This soon grew to include a stall at community events from dances to music events and coffee mornings.

Interest grew to the extent that an enrichment class was introduced, concentrating on topics like human rights and trade justice, events planning and accounts keeping. Members of the community with experience in working with Christian Aid and the World Bank provided vital input.

Kimberley MacKay, a former student involved in Trocaploc, and SFTF Board member said:

"One of the highlights of my time with Trocaploc was arranging a concert with local band 'Paddy Rasta' whose songs are about fair trade. This and other local events were a great way of promoting fair trade products and issues to the public.

"We all put in a lot of hours and enthusiasm into Trocaploc and played a big part in deciding the group's aims and targets. Even today, two years after leaving Plockton High School, many former students like myself are still involved with the group and take great interest in seeing how it has evolved and progressed since it was founded in 2005. "

The SFTF Newsletter will regularly feature information on Fair Trade activity in Schools, Universities and Colleges. If you know of one that deserves a mention we would love to hear from you at editor@sfft.org.uk.

Fair Trade Vending Machines

Capital Vending is the leading distributor of Fair Trade vending machines in Scotland. Owner Alan Bridges answers our questions:

What is the history of Fair Trade Vending Machines?

The first company using 100% Fairtrade products in their vending machines started 4 years ago and the market has seen roughly a 40% annual growth since then. We have supplied over 200 Fairtrade Vending machines throughout Scotland, to date.

Where's the biggest uptake of your machines?

There has been a lot of interest from Universities and Colleges, but universities, in particular, find difficulties with existing contracts, due to massive incentives from the larger soft drink and confectionary distributors. Our most successful market is offices - especially charitable organisations.

How can people introduce Fair Trade vending machines in their workplace, college or university?

It's amazing what can happen if enough people get together and ask the same question. Students and employees are the consumer and should be given the products they want.

What's ahead for Fair Trade vending machines?

The quality of Fairtrade products is now second to none. Fairtrade coffee dispensers lead the way in the Bean-to-Cup range. Our machines are better for the environment as well. Our coffee machines use biodegradable cups and, in the future, we are looking to providing energy saving machines and bring in carbon neutral dispensers.

To find out more about Fairtrade vending machines check out www.fairtradevending.co.uk or contact Capital Vending on 01506 437 212, info@capitalvending.co.uk

Updates from the Scottish Fair Trade Forum

* Our first regular Forum meeting will be held in Stirling on World Fair Trade Day - Saturday, May 10, 2008. These open Forum meetings will be held bi-monthly in various locations around Scotland. Forum meetings will be an opportunity for you to give feedback to the Forum, let us know what we can do to support Fair Trade activity in your area, and help shape the ongoing Fair Trade Nation campaign.

The meeting on May 10 will be a time to share information, highlight what's happening in the Stirling area and more. All current and potential Forum members are invited to come along.

For more information, contact Stirling Fair Trade Propeller Group Co-ordinator, Jon Cape, at jon@cameroncape.net, 07775 665561

* Congratulations and thanks to Patricia Ferguson MSP for securing a debate on Fairtrade Fortnight at Scottish Parliament on 19 March 2008. She recognised work done thus far for the Fair Trade Nation campaigns and added '...achieving Fairtrade town, village or nation status is only a means to an end. It is an opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to the ideals of fair trade and to encourage others to understand them and embrace them.'

To see more coverage of this debate, see www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk/FT14_debate_ScParl

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