Baildon Fairtrade Town renewal

The Fairtrade Foundation has renewed the status of Baildon Fairtrade Town, following its commitment to continue with local events like the Co-op stall and the hugely successful Fairtrade bananas on the Tour de Yorkshire.

Fairtrade Foundation said, “We are really impressed with the clear effort and dedication the town has put in to continually raise awareness and spread information about Fairtrade and to stock Fairtrade goods and products as much as possible.” Baildon Fairtrade group echo their final comment, “we would like to pass on our congratulations and say thank you to everyone who has been involved.”

Fairtrade coffee sales up 4% in 2016

The Fairtrade Foundation worked with key companies to drive Fairtrade coffee sales in 2016. Greggs, Starbucks, Taylors, Patisserie Valerie and Waitrose have all generated new business.

Why it matters

A study on Fairtrade coffee in Mexico, Peru, Tanzania and Indonesia by the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Greenwich found that Fairtrade increases prices and incomes for producers. The research said that Fairtrade producers generally obtain greater gross household income compared to non-Fairtrade producers in three of the four countries. Income was 16 percent higher in Mexico, 47 percent higher in Peru and 107 percent higher in Tanzania. Researchers found that Fairtrade supported the strengthening of producer organisations, and that farmers received better services and training, and were better able to invest in their businesses.

Sustainable cotton future

“The industry is awakening to the necessity of sustainably grown cotton. It is great to see additional brands joining this initiative to accelerate the momentum of cotton production in a way that will positively impact smallholder farmers, water quality and soil health.” La Rhea Pepper, Managing Director, Textile Exchange. 35 major brands including ASOS, Burberry, Nike, H&M, IKEA and Timberland have committed to 100% sustainable cotton by 2025. This pledge demonstrates that there is a demand for more sustainable cotton, and will help to drive sustainable practices.
Report from Linda Macavan MEP

As chair of the Fairtrade Working Group, I was happy to host the annual Fair Trade breakfast in the European Parliament. It’s fantastic to see the breakfast getting bigger each year. And it’s not just more MEPs and representation from the Commission in attendance, we are also seeing increased participation from the grassroots movement of Fair Trade - not just from the usual strongholds like the UK, France, Germany, and Italy, but from Eastern Europe where the concept is taking hold.

By choosing Fairtrade products, we’re saying that no one deserves to be short-changed for a hard day’s work. And that it’s wrong to benefit from farmers being paid unfairly.

We have the power to make that choice.

For more information see: http://fortnight.fairtrade.org.uk/our-mission

Your Fairtrade Christmas

Challenge yourself to buy as many Christmas gifts and food products as possible that display the Fairtrade logo on the high street or look online at retailers such as www.traidcraftshop.co.uk — all sourced from fair trade co-operatives, traditional artisans, and small-scale growers around the world. That way, you will also be putting a smile on the face of Fairtrade producers.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018
26th February – 11th March

Look out for news of local events...

Trade negotiations alert

As Brexit negotiations continue, it is obvious that there are no clear processes for democratic engagement, making it more important for Fairtrade supporters to be watchful and press for transparency in deals which impact on producers. Meanwhile a select group of mostly multinational businesses and their lobbying representatives are given privileged access to the preparation of negotiations.