



Cheshire West and Chester Fairtrade Steering Group

Annual Report

April 2018 – March 2019

Highlights of the year's Fairtrade activities in Cheshire West and Chester Fairtrade Borough between April 2018 and March 2019:

19th October 2018

Cheshire West and Chester Council recommitted its support for Fairtrade

Cheshire West and Chester Council unanimously recommitted its support for Fairtrade through the Notice of Motion. Matthew Sutton of And Albert spoke on behalf of the Steering Group and Cllr Louise Gittins led the debate. Volunteers staffed a Fairtrade Stall in the Council Building.



December 2018

Fairtrade Borough Accreditation Renewal

We were very pleased to have gained our Accreditation renewal for another two years!



Steering Group reorganisation

In April 2018, the long-standing Chair of the Steering Group, Ruth Davidson, announced her retirement from the Group. The Steering Group recorded a Vote of Thanks for Ruth's 25 years of service and for all her commitment and enthusiasm over the years thanked her for all her work. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers at her home.

At the next meeting, John Tacon agreed to take on the Chair's role in an Acting capacity. In May, Brenda Fairley, the Steering Group Treasurer resigned for personal reasons.

At the meeting on 14th May, Kath Keegan was appointed to be new Treasurer



University of Chester Freshers' Day October 2018

Matthew Sutton from And Albert and Alison Upton from the University of Chester Chaplaincy arranged a Fairtrade Stand at the Freshers' Fair



25th February to 9th March 2019 Fairtrade Fortnight

Chester Market Fairtrade Stall

The main aim of the “Market Stall” was to promote Fairtrade and engage with members of the public through tastings, literature, sale of goods and just talking to people. We really wanted to raise awareness of Cheshire West and Chester having been re-accredited as a Fairtrade Borough by The Fairtrade Foundation in December 2018.

The stall included products from Chester Fair Trade, based in the Wesley Centre, And Albert (Eastgate Row) and also Chifundo selling Malawian arts and craft.

The stall was open for the full 2 weeks and was covered by volunteers. Visitors sampled the food and talking to about Fairtrade.

Over the fortnight, the stall attracted a total of **455 visitors**, and products sold to a total value of **£824**.

It was considered to be really successful and encouraged the Group to plan to have a presence in Chester Market on other occasions.



25th February to 9th March 2019 – Fairtrade Fortnight

University of Chester Fairtrade Cake Bake-Off

On 26th February 2019, The University of Chester held a Fairtrade Cake Bake-Off, in which a number of students and staff took part. The cakes were then offered in exchange for donations which will go to the Fairtrade Foundation.

Judging took place outside the Chaplaincy, with two winners.



Schools Visits - And Albert

And Albert is a local retailer dedicated to an ethical and Fair Trade approach to business. It is very active within Cheshire Schools and community groups offering assemblies, talks, workshops and products for sale.

During Fairtrade Fortnight And Albert staff visited 23 Cheshire schools offering a combination of whole school assemblies coupled with fun interactive workshops. The shop also provided products for the children to run pocket money stalls. In all, proprietor Matthew Sutton spoke to over 4,000 children. The main theme of the assemblies was to look at how traditional village craft making when combined with Fairtrade principles can be an important source of income for communities throughout the world. This year they focused on paper-making in Nepal and the craft villages of Northern Ghana.



Neston Fairtrade Group

The Group held a market stall on 1st March where many visitors enjoyed free Fairtrade chocolate tasters.

A Fairtrade table was present at Neston Methodist Church and Community Centre on Friday 8th March, and a table at Ness & Little Neston WI on Tuesday 5th March



Fairtrade in Neston

June 2018

Fairtrade stall at Neston Village Fair

People enjoyed tasting the Fairtrade samples with donations of bananas from Sainsbury's, Divine chocolate and other donated samples

September 2018

Fairtrade stall at Wildlife Festival at Neston Community Youth Centre

Neston Fairtrade Town Group provided Fairtrade refreshments and an information display and tasting stall

November 2018

Fairtrade "Thank You's"

As Neston moved closer to becoming a Fairtrade Town, members of Neston Fairtrade Group presented 'thank you' certificates in venues across the town.

December 2018

Christmas Market

The group had a Fairtrade table at Neston Christmas Market.



Thanks

Our thanks go to all the "unsung" Fairtrade retailers, outlets and organisations who have tirelessly supported Fairtrade and Fairtrade products throughout the year across the borough. Thanks also to their countless customers who have purchased Fairtrade products – you are making a big difference.

Thanks also to Cheshire West and Chester's Fairtrade Steering Group, Cheshire West and Chester Council and all Fairtrade campaigners in Cheshire West and Chester.

Website:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-and-performance/climate-change-sustainability/fairtrade-borough.aspx>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CheshireWestFairtrade/>

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