

SEAFORD FAIRTRADE GROUP CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 2009

Introduction

Seaford Fairtrade Group has continued its work during 2009, encouraging residents, businesses and organisations within the town to embrace the principles of fair trade and to use Fairtrade goods whenever possible.

Fairtrade Group Meetings

We held the Annual Meeting on 28 January, with an excellent talk from Chris Davis of the Fairtrade Foundation. The group met on five other occasions during 2009. Eileen Delaney took over as secretary and Jenny Wistreich became membership secretary.

Fairtrade Tasting

As usual, this was our major event during Fairtrade Fortnight, held once more at the Clinton Centre, which is an excellent venue to demonstrate the range of Fairtrade goods available locally. 350 people came to the event and, as in previous years, Penny Major organised a children's Fairtrade competition which involved 98 children from local schools. In 2009, the competition focused on Fairtrade cooking, with the participants producing some attractive and delicious delicacies. Having moved to Brighton, Penny has now left Seaford Fairtrade Group. Her skills and enthusiasm will be badly missed.

Bananathon

The Co-op provided us with £45 worth of Fairtrade bananas and, aided by our giant inflatable banana, we gave them away during Fairtrade fortnight to bemused passers-by in Broad Street.

Fairtrade Service

This event concluded Fairtrade Fortnight and was held once more at St Thomas More Church. The service included a presentation by young people from the church and a quiz with prizes!

One World Week

Another "Buffet and Banter" evening was held on 23 October to mark One World Week. Nearly 100 people enjoyed the excellent Fairtrade food provided by Group members. Siobhan Wilson and Barb Wilson spoke about sourcing Fairtrade goods and the benefits of the Fairtrade premium.

Survey of businesses

Tony Delaney and Jim Holmes, assisted by Irene Rowland, Jo Tigg, and Dave Argent, have been visiting cafes in Seaford and reviewing the directory of businesses selling Fairtrade goods. This is a necessary part of the process of renewing our Fairtrade Town status.

Conclusion

During 2009 the Fairtrade group continued its usual pattern of concentrating on a number of events during Fairtrade Fortnight in February/March and a further main event during One World Week in October. This model seems to work well [and is

very enjoyable] but I do wonder sometimes whether we are “preaching to the converted” and need to spend more time and energy talking to those people, businesses and organisations not yet convinced of the benefits of Fairtrade.

Finally, I should like to thank other members of the Group for their enthusiastic commitment to the Fairtrade cause, and their support to me as Chair. I would particularly like to thank the Vice-chair Colin Pritchard, who produces marvellous publicity material for us, and the Secretary, Eileen Delaney, who produces excellent agenda and minutes.

Ralph Taylor

Chair, Seaford Fairtrade Group,

05.01.10