



# Bristol Fairtrade Newsletter NOVEMBER 2009



## 10 Downing Street

To celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Fairtrade Mark, Bristol Fairtrade Co-ordinator, Jenny Foster, was amongst those invited by Sarah Brown to a reception at 10 Downing Street in October. Jenny was one of only a handful of local campaigners invited to attend, confirming Bristol's standing as a leading Fairtrade city in the UK.

Also at the reception were comedian Harry Hill and chef Sophie Grigson who both support and promote Fairtrade, as well as directors of major Fairtrade businesses, and Fairtrade Foundation staff.

Sarah Brown announced that Number 10 is now a Fairtrade residence and DfID announced an extra £12million funding for Fairtrade to help the fight against poverty.

## Fairtrade City Renewal

Bristol has been overwhelmingly successful in its Fairtrade City renewal. The Fairtrade Foundation report concluded

'This is an outstanding and incredibly impressive record of achievement and I hope you and everyone involved feel very, very proud of all the Network has and continues to achieve.'

Without a doubt, the City Council continues to be one of the pioneer authorities in terms of promoting and adopting Fairtrade and in offering genuine support to the Fairtrade Network as it seeks to take this commitment out across the wider community.

We would strongly urge the Council to continue to build upon the excellent and very significant work to date by ensuring that the Network is resourced and that the Co-ordinator role can continue. The Bristol Fairtrade Network is well respected across the UK and has been cited as an example of best practice at European levels too. This effective and established partnership between the Council, public, private and community-based organisations has delivered a great deal – not only to farming communities in developing countries through Fairtrade but also to Bristol as a community, creating opportunities to celebrate, work and lead the way together. Without a doubt, the Co-ordinator role plays a fundamental part in making this happen.'

## SW RIEP Funding

Bristol City Council procurement team, with input from the Bristol Fairtrade Network, submitted a successful funding bid to the South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to extend BCC's Sustainable Procurement programme to focus on Fairtrade in public sector procurement. The extended funding, over 2 years, will enable us to hold a Fairtrade procurement conference and training for procurement staff throughout the south west and beyond, as well as set up a SW Fairtrade website. A South West Fairtrade Purchasing Guide to enable businesses easy access to wholesale and catering Fairtrade goods and services has already been produced.



## Festivals

BFTN has been proactive in getting Bristol Fairtrade Directories and other Fairtrade information out in the City. This summer/autumn we have had Fairtrade stands at the following festivals:

<b>Bristol Healthy Schools Conference</b>	June
<b>Neal's Yard FT Cosmetics Launch</b>	July
<b>Bristol Wine and Food Fair</b>	July
<b>Harbourside Festival</b>	July
<b>Islamic Cultural Fayre</b>	August
<b>Bristol Business Show</b>	September
<b>City of Bristol College Freshers' Week - (Bedminster and College Green sites)</b>	September
<b>Building Better Bristol market and awards ceremony</b>	October
<b>SW Office Show</b>	October

## Better Bristol Awards

GWE Business West chose fair trading as the theme for their annual Building Better Bristol awards in October this year to celebrate the commercial harvest of the city. Eight local businesses and charities came together to participate in a Fairtrade market in the grounds of St. Stephens church and we were blessed with lovely weather! The awards ceremony in the evening included a talk from Hannah Reed from the Fairtrade Foundation who inspired the businesses present about how Fairtrade makes good ethical and good business sense. The winners of the awards were Bristol Zoo Gardens, Triodos Bank, Fareshare and Young Bristol.



## Ambassadors

September saw nine local Fairtrade supporters attend a Bristol Fairtrade Network training event to become Fairtrade Ambassadors. As well as increasing their understanding of Fairtrade they learnt games to illustrate Fairtrade that can be used in classrooms by playing them themselves!

We hope to repeat the training in 2010. Building up a team of Ambassadors means that we can offer more input to schools, workplaces and take stands at events, to increase awareness and understanding of Fairtrade in the city.

## Schools

Bristol now has 3 schools with the Fairtrade Schools status and 15 more are working towards achieving the award.

We have partnered with the human trafficking charity, Unchosen, to take 'My Big Fairtrade Adventure' DVD into schools during November and December. The film is followed by a talk and discussion led by the Co-ordinator or one of the trained Ambassadors. This is an excellent vehicle for discussing Fairtrade and enables pupils from years 6-10 to increase their understanding of sustainability and fair trade issues.



## Fairtrade Foundation AGM & Destination Bristol Annual Conference

Jenny Foster, Bristol Fairtrade Co-ordinator was the only campaigner asked to give a presentation at the Fairtrade Foundation AGM in June. The activities of the Bristol FT Network were applauded by all present including five Fairtrade producers from around the globe. The Chief Executive of Christian Aid was incredibly impressed with our campaigns and events and said he would use our work as a beacon of hope and good practice to his own campaigners.

Jenny also spoke at the Destination Bristol Annual Conference, presenting a one-minute poem to persuade local businesses to switch to using Fairtrade.

### Plans for Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 (22<sup>nd</sup> February - 7<sup>th</sup> March)

We are working with Bristol Link with Beira to bring Isabel Antonio, a Fairtrade cashew nut producer from Mozambique, to Bristol for the Fortnight to speak in schools and at events. 2010 marks 20 years of our link with Beira.

We are also planning an even bigger and better Fairtrade Fashion Show at Bristol cathedral – for more information do visit the website: [www.fairwearfashionshow.org.uk](http://www.fairwearfashionshow.org.uk)



More events will be planned over the next few months and posted on our website.

For more information on Fairtrade in Bristol visit [www.bristolfairtradenetwork.org.uk](http://www.bristolfairtradenetwork.org.uk)

Or contact Jenny Foster, Bristol Fairtrade Co-ordinator on 0117-922-4916,  
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