

TO ALL MEMBERS OF CUMBRIA FAIR TRADE NETWORK

First a **Very Happy New Year** to you all!

5 updates on CFTN below:

1. Fairtrade Fortnight 2012 and Francis Chisuse
 2. Open Meeting and AGM 10th March 2012
 3. Cumbria Local and Fair Post-Conference Forum 20th March 2012
 4. Susan Beale joins the Network Steering Group
 5. Reports from the last Open Meeting 24th September 2011
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1. **Fairtrade Fortnight 2012:** Groups all over the country will now be making plans for Fairtrade Fortnight and for many of us in Cumbria those plans include events involving Francis Chisuse from Mzuwadzi Association of smallholder tea growers in Malawi. Francis will be in Cumbria for the whole of the Fortnight. We know now that Francis has his visa - so is definitely coming.

Janet Farebrother, who is coordinating Francis' programme, told me yesterday that most groups – if not all – have put in a 'bid' for him. The Network Steering Committee had originally suggested that every Cumbrian Group should contribute £60.00 towards his costs, but at our December Network Steering Group Meeting we re-considered this in the light of the fact that some groups may not ask for him.

Therefore, this is what we are now asking for (though it is still based on a bit of guesswork). On the first assumption that his airfare costs around £800 and on the second assumption that 15 groups ask to make use of him (Janet wasn't sure of the number when I spoke to her), then that works out at about £50.00 per participating group. So that or something close to that is what we will be asking for – *but only from participating groups*. On top of that we are assuming that all costs of feeding, hosting and transporting Francis will be absorbed locally. I know that some groups have already sent donations, and other groups are asking how much and by when and to whom, etc. I suggest that no one else sends anything until we a) firm up on the airfare; b) know the final number of participating groups.

If you still have a request to make for Francis, please get it to Janet **as soon as possible**. Contact details:

janetfarebrother@yahoo.co.uk

01900 822 099
Croft House Farm
46 High Brigham
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Cockermouth
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2. **Open Meeting and AGM, 10th March, Ambleside Parish Centre**: Jenny Baker has done great work in getting the Parish Centre at Ambleside booked for our Open Day, but this time we shall have an amplification system and have been promised no bell-ringing! Francis will be with us and also Robert Craig, the Eden Valley dairy farmer who went to the Windward Islands before the Cumbria Local and Fair Conference in November. The draft programme is:

09.30 – 09.45 Arrivals and coffee / tea
09.45 – 10.30 AGM
10.30 – 11.30 Group Round-up
11.30 – 12.30 Fairtrade tea in Malawi: Francis Chisuse
12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
13.30 – 15.00 Cumbria Local & Fair Update: Joe Human; followed by Robert Craig on his visit to St Lucia

I will send more details nearer the time, along with AGM papers.

3. **Cumbria Local and Fair Post-Conference Forum**, which was to have been on 3rd February, is **postponed until 20th March 2012**, because we need more time to plan. It will be at **Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency** (Redhills site, Penrith) and will be shorter than the Conference (maximum 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.), and for between 60 and 70 people. The Forum will focus on specific projects suggested by the Conference workshops, but all within an overarching programme framework, which we are now working on.

The Forum Planning Group next meets on 24th January 2012. I will be in touch with you with more details after that.

4. **Susan Beale**, Caldbeck and Hesketh Newmarket, has joined the Network Steering Group representing **Churches Together in Cumbria**. We were pleased to welcome her to the December meeting.

5. **September Open Meeting Minutes** are attached, with many thanks to Ursula for giving so much detail on our activities. Also attached is **Murray and Liz Saunders' Report** on their visit to **SOFA** in Sri Lanka in the Summer of 2011