

MINUTES OF CFTN OPEN MEETING 24TH SEPTMEBER 2011 WINDERMERE SCHOOL

1. Jo Alberti welcomed Windermere School's bursar, who gave us a very brief history of the school.

2. Jo introduced the agenda for the day followed by introduction of Murray Saunders, lecturer at Lancaster University, and member of Kirby Lonsdale FT group.

3. Murray gave us a very interesting and challenging talk on a recent visit he & wife Liz had in Sri Lanka (See report.)

4. Cumbria Local and Fair Conference, Rheged, Friday November 4th 2011.

Joe gave brief update on this very, very big project. Joe said he hadn't anticipated the "vastness" of the undertaking which has been very dynamic from its inception.

Joe requests that campaigners should try to contact Local farmers, producers, wool producers as the conference is aimed at this group.

Joe also explained that the conference is NOT essentially for campaigners to attend, though it may be pertinent for some to attend. Places are limited and must be booked in advance.

Workshop 1: connecting local producers with Fairtrade customers would probably be the most useful workshop for FT campaigners.

More information about the conference can be found on Cumbria FT website:

www.cumbriafairtrade.org.uk

Sponsorship for this event received from Co-op £2000. Riverside Carlisle £1200 which will specifically fund the costs for FT banana farmer's visit. Other sponsorship from Rural Development Programme for England, and some further monies promised by Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA).

Campaigners evening event Friday Nov 4th at Rheged. Hot fork buffet, tickets £10.95: need to be booked in advance: email with further details to follow. This is an opportunity for Cumbria FT campaigners to meet Robert Craig, Eden dairy farmer and Stephen Best, banana farmer from Windward Islands.

Joe commented that the concept of 'FT & Local' is fast spreading around the county.

5. County 'Round up'.

AMBLESIDE, Betty Potts. This group has reconvened to raise profile of FT by creating a new register of users and providers. There are 12 core members who meet at the parish Centre.

ARNSIDE, Harry Warner. This group took an audit of FT products available in shops, catering and holiday lets. These details were delivered to every house in the town.

Arnside is on the route of the FT Way.

Coffee tasting held regularly next one in November at WI. Have financed FT village sign.

Banana Game, led by vicar in local primary school.

BOWNESS/WINDERMERE,

Have had success in getting 3 road signs erected: publicised in Westmorland Gazette. This was achieved by the 'right person being in the right place at the right time'.

This group have supported Ambleside in getting re-established.

FT drinks and Geobars sold at annual airshow.

3 new members: now 15 active members, with 6 members attending today!

Will have FT presence at 'Big Green Event' organised by young people focus of this event is on sustainability: 'local & fair'. FT group organised a Fairtrade jam competition, using local fruit and FT sugar which got a lot of publicity.

This group will represent CFTN at the North West Rotary Conference next spring in Southport.

BRAMPTON, John Harding. Regular schools assemblies on FT topics. A FT mosaic in the making to be displayed in Co-op. Regained FT status. Irthington School has link with Makaibari tea estate school. This link has been established since Rajah Bannerjee visited the school.

Brampton group have now moved their FT group funds to a Shared Interest account: this company invests resources to support FT.

CARLISLE, Clare Feeney. Present at Radio One "Big Weekend". Garden party at Morton Manor sponsored by Co-op and Riverside Carlisle had a whole host of FT related activities: afternoon tea of FT & local homemade refreshments served by Richard Rose Academy pupils. Local primary school choir performed songs (good idea for 'rent a crowd': gets a lot of parents/grandparents to attend). FT Fashion Show hosted by Lorna Strong from COWC featuring Bishopston & People Tree products. This was also supported by Marks & Spencer's who loaned clothing & donated FT roses: modelled by pupils from Richard Rose Academy. Decorate a cupcake competition, jewellery making, FT football: goal scoring competition.

Continue to work on '10 good reasons' leaflet.

2 schools working towards FT status. Planning a stall at Christmas market.

COCKERMOUTH, Ursula Leonard.

Activity Banners and bunting created by work with local primary schools during and since FT fortnight. Hope to use these during 'town' events.

Had information stall and giant snakes & ladders game at town's Family Fun day in July: whole event poorly attended so felt not to repeat next year. S&L games enjoyed by young children, but FT messages not appropriate for this age group.

Have our own 'display/information boards' which travel to different venues throughout the town.

Still struggling to place a FT plaque within the town: gave up on trying getting road signs erected as highway dept told us 'no'. Latest idea is to get plaque made then run a "where can we put our plaque?" press competition!

Our BIG EVENT for future is a 'Local & Fair' meal: Nov 3rd at The Trout Hotel in Cockermouth.

Hoping to have 2-3 local producers speak to guests about their products, and maybe FT producer who will be visiting for conference the next day.

CONISTON. Hold weekly coffee mornings since 2004. Profits from these events shared between FT Foundation, Christian Aid and Emergency Disaster Committee.

Have 8 members. Question: would it be possible for Post offices nationally to sell FT products?

Coniston group keep trying new outlets to encourage them to sell FT.

EDEN & PENRITH Nicola Vecqueray and Sarah Hulme work at maintaining links with schools.

Attended Woolfest in Cockermouth in June. Held fashion Show in conjunction with WI. Have links with Heskett Newmarket group.

GOSFORTH & WASDALE sent report: renewal application sent, awaiting outcome. Had FT displays at Gosforth Show and Wasdale Show. Group planning pre Christmas promotion. Co-op have sponsored new directory. Seascale school working towards FT status.

EGREMONT, Janet Farebrother. FT group part of 2 monthly market held on 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month: promote FT & local, serving FT refreshments to different communities.. This now includes neighbouring parishes as well as Egremont town. Action plan set for FT Town status. October

holding special harvest market: John Crouch doing cookery demonstration. November working with local schools: links very good with many local community organisations.

GRANGE, Pam Baines. Group closely linked to Soroptimists: Pam suggested this can be very useful link. FT event in Victoria hall involving guides & youth clubs planned for March 17th 2012. Working towards getting FT road signs.

KENDAL, Sarah Webb

Group published new directory this year: spent a morning in Booths handing out directories and were allowed to leave at tills to be picked up. Had stall at county show: Co-op vouchers provided chocolate tasters. Group is very small at the moment: decided to focus on schools. Cluster of Kendal & surrounding schools working towards FT status with support of CDEC project (see below).

KESWICK, Jill Human. Keswick has 2 active groups within membership: fundraisers and steering committee. Strawberry Tea busiest ever. Stall at agricultural show “made a lot of money”. Group spent money on exhibition at Theatre by the Lake: village life in Choche.

Group has strong links with Rotarians. Held event in school: ‘Celebrating Ethiopia, celebrating coffee’: Ethiopian members of Oromo Coffee Company visited from Manchester. AGM discussed action plan for further development with Choche.

KIRKBY LONSDALE, Murray Saunders. Hold monthly coffee mornings with Traidcraft & Zaytoun stalls, also link with other activities held in Market hall.

Held a “Local/Global” Cassoulet night: sausages, beans and FT wine for 65 guests accompanied by World Music. Now planning similar event: Sri Lanka night inspired by recent trip.

MILLOM, Beryl Newbold. Seen an increase in schools campaigning. Local secondary school had event on the beach: made a FT badge in sand. This school working towards FT status. Future focus on youth groups. Traidcraft supplies continue to be distributed to local churches/group on regular basis. Steering group has 11 members. “members attended ‘local business man’s breakfast’. Oct 14th Autumn supper: having speaker, Ruth Taylor from Shared Interest.

Lessons learned: try to have one steering group member from retail trade. Also: stop...think ‘where are we going?’!

ULVERSTON, Hilary Thomas & Jane Longton. Group has 7-8 members. Due to family connections have promoted Geobars at 10k run events.

Lantern House: ‘Speakers Corner’ events: member spoke on “Free Trade, Fairtrade & Unfair trade”: which can be found on internet.

WIGTON, Trish Fallows. 4 members, linking to “Pride in Wigton” action group. Have a FT stall in market hall. Town mayor is new steering committee chairperson. Have recently erected FT sign in main car park after struggle to get planning permission. Plan exhibition in library during ‘One World Week’. Visited Rory Stewart MP. Have weekly coffee morning in Methodist church.

WINDERMERE SCHOOL: Eustace and Torben

School has steering committee working towards FT school status.

6. News from Cumbria’s FT Co-ordinator: Joe Human

FT schools work/ Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC)

A £8,000 grant from FT Foundation is funding FT project work that CDEC are carrying out in schools, supporting 16 to gain FT status.

Generally CDEC receives funding for specific projects; therefore CDECs employee wages are vulnerable. CDEC are hoping to encourage Cumbrian groups (including FT members) to become members of CDEC: £10/year.

Earlier this year a FT Kenyan rose grower visited some of the CDEC 'project' schools.

FT County Renewal: Joe acknowledged that this work needs to be done, but is large piece of work, and cannot be tackled at present.

LDNPA are launching their campaign to become a FT zone: they will be first in country. Launch of this venture to take place at Low Wood.

7. Future of Cumbria Fair Trade Network.

Jo Alberti led this discussion posing the questions what was the purpose of CFTN?

Inspiration? Connections?

Jo acknowledged that without Joe Human CFTN would not exist: this was given a strong vote of agreement within the room. However, CFTN NEEDS new blood, and has been without a chairperson for many months now: offers will be considered if anyone feels they would like to offer their skills & time. Jo suggested that each attendee should take this back to their own group for discussion/action.

CFTN also would like to have commitment from faith group representative.

Open discussion followed :

Does CFTN need to change its activities/structure?

Question: what are the committee roles? Answer: strategic framework for promoting FT in Cumbria.

Acknowledgement that there is a need to review Cumbria's FT strategic framework.

If CFTN is to be more proactive there is a 'need' for more commitment from more individuals to lead a particular sector of strategic framework.

Suggestion to restructure into north & south CFTN groups as logistics of meeting together, county wide, is very difficult for those who live at far edges of county.

Proposal: better use of website as a "central information bureau". For website "to work" there needs to be ongoing input from individuals groups: this doesn't happen regularly from some groups at present. Also someone with skills and commitment will need to be available to maintain website.

Active/interactive forum. Chatroom/"interest group", Facebook/Twitter. There is a guide to some of these features on FT website.

8. FT Fortnight 2012: February 27th – March 11th.

As well as FT fortnight being the 2 week promotion period, the FT Foundation are suggesting this is also used to kick start activities throughout the year: see website: "Take a step for FT in 2012". FT Fortnight, World FT Day in May. Summer of FT (May – August). Autumn of FT (Oct onwards). FT Foundation is aiming for 1.5 million steps: one step for every FT producer around the world.

Cumbria FT groups voted at AGM in March to sponsor a FT producer visit for FT Fortnight 2012.

The FT Foundation will manage invitation & training for our FT producer, a Malawian Tea producer, but Cumbria's FT groups will need to fund the visit: approx £1200. Every group is asked to contribute something to this venture.

Co-ordinator for the FT producer's visit also required: please come forward if you would be able to help with this.

The Cumbria FT AGM for 2012 will take place during FT fortnight to give as many campaigners as possible opportunity to meet the Malawian tea farmer. Plan to have celebratory event on either Saturday 3rd or 10th March: date to be confirmed.