

| <p style="text-align: center;">Renfrewshire Fair Trade Steering Group 29 April 2019 Gryffe High School</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> |
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| <p>Present: Cllr. Brown (chair), Cllr. Audrey Doig, Colin Grainger (Renfrewshire Council), Ross Crawford (Renfrewshire Council, minutes), Craig Doogan (Renfrewshire Council), Morag Thow (Lochwinnoch Community Council), Gemma Elliott (Rainbow Turtle), Heather Rowan (Gryffe High), Tracy Mitchell (Just Trading Scotland), Nicola Taylor (Just Trading Scotland), Susan Hamill (Mary Russell), Moira Stark (Gryffe High)</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr. Iain Nicolson, Cllr. Jim Sharkey, Eve Broadis (Fair Trade Scotland), Colum Scriven (Rainbow Turtle), Martin Hamilton (Just Trading Scotland)</p> | |
| <p>1. Opening Remarks/Welcome</p> <p>Cllr. Brown welcomed the group to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. The group conducted a round table introduction for each member. Cllr. Brown thanked Gryffe for offering to host the meeting.</p> | |
| <p>2. Apologies</p> <p>Cllr. Brown read out the apologies for the meeting.</p> | |
| <p>3. Previous Note and matters arising</p> <p>The previous note from 16 January 2019, was agreed. Morag Thow noted that on the previous minute, her name was assigned to Lochwinnoch Fair Trade when it should be Lochwinnoch Community Council. The minute has been updated to reflect this.</p> | |
| <p>4. Fairtrade work at Gryffe High School</p> <p>Heather Rowan (Gryffe High) introduced the group to two head pupils from the school's Citizenship Committee, who have been working on various fair trade projects and events in recent years. A presentation involving the Citizenship Committee and other pupils was shown to highlight fair trade activity at Gryffe High. The presentation showed that the school had been carrying out classroom-based activities around the benefits of fair trade eg. the effect of fair trade on producers and farmers, how fair trade footballs are made and the benefits of buying fair trade.</p> <p>The presentation also highlighted other activities based outwith the classroom, such as: "beat the goalie" football events against the headteacher; various community events; and a Ben & Jerry's fair trade ice cream stall during fair trade fortnight. The school also hosts a monthly fair trade coffee morning for staff and have had recent assemblies on upcoming fair trade events.</p> | |

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| <p>The pupils then invited the group to ask any questions about Gryffe’s activity. Cllr. Doig asked if there were representatives from all year groups throughout the school. The pupils responded by saying that four of the 4th year students had been involved in fair trade at the school since first year and that the goal was to get more people onto the committee. The pupils also said that events such as the “beat the goalie” highlighted the fair trade movement to the first and second year pupils.</p> <p>There was a discussion on how schools can share activity online, as this provides the groups with recognition. It was also noted that this could help the steering group provide evidence of fair trade activity in their application for achieving fair trade status.</p> | |
| <p>5. Fair Trade Schools Awards 2019</p> <p>Colin Grainger indicated that the Renfrewshire Fair Trade Schools Awards would be launched in the coming weeks and congratulated Gryffe High on winning the award for the last four years.</p> <p>Colin asked the group for their thoughts on when the best time would be to send out communication inviting applications for the awards. Heather Rowan (Gryffe High) and Susan Hamill (Mary Russell) agreed that it would be ideal to communicate details as soon as possible.</p> <p>The idea of a schools fair trade group was suggested to help encourage more applications for the awards. Susan Hamill (Mary Russell) suggested that this may be difficult as school contacts for fair trade can change on a regular basis. It was suggested that a general email be sent out to establish who would be the contact for fair trade for all Renfrewshire schools.</p> <p>Action: Send email to all schools to establish who would be the best contact for fair trade</p> <p>The group then discussed Fairtrade status renewal in Renfrewshire towns and villages. Cllr. Brown noted that he had been working on the Renfrew area’s status and had relaunched a Renfrew area steering group. Cllr. Brown indicated that he would be happy to use the Renfrew application as a test application prior to other areas submitting online applications.</p> <p>Tracy Mitchell (Just Trading Scotland) noted that the new online renewal form for Fairtrade status is much simpler than the previous manual versions.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">RC/CG</p> |

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| <p>Craig Doogan (Renfrewshire Council) suggested that a presentation to the Head Teachers Forum could encourage schools to become more active and to raise awareness of Fairtrade. Susan Hamill (Mary Russell) noted that this could be a good place to start.</p> | |
| <p>6. Fairtrade Fortnight Activity (25 February – 10 March)</p> <p>Colin Grainger referred to the activity that had occurred in Renfrewshire over the Fairtrade Fortnight period (25 February-10 March). Colin indicated that activity monitoring forms had been sent out to schools and local groups (via fairtrade@renfrewshire.gov.uk) that had received funding from the Fair Trade Steering Group, but some forms had still to be returned.</p> <p>Gemma Elliott (Rainbow Turtle) highlighted some of the activity that Rainbow Turtle had been involved in during the period. Gemma indicated that Rainbow Turtle had hosted an event for schools at St Mirren Park. WOSDEC (West of Scotland Development Education Centre) and BALA Sports were at the event along to provide workshops.</p> <p>Gemma also spoke about the producer event at Mary Russell, where a Rwandan coffee producer gave a presentation to over 100 secondary school pupils to speak about fair trade. Gemma said that both events had picked up good press coverage in local newspapers.</p> | |
| <p>7. Fairtrade Status</p> <p>It was agreed that Fairtrade status renewal had been discussed at agenda item 5 and required no further comment.</p> | |
| <p>8. International Fair Trade Charter Update</p> <p>Cllr. Brown provided an update on the International Fair Trade Charter and indicated that the Charter was adopted at full Council meeting in February 2019. A photocall with Cllr. Nicolson will take place at Renfrewshire House on 1 May.</p> <p>Colin Grainger indicated that Renfrewshire Council are the first Council in the country to sign up to the Charter.</p> | |

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| <p>It was also agreed to provide a link to the charter website for members to view those organisations who had recognised the documents.</p> <p>The website is https://www.fair-trade.website.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CG/RC</p> |
| <p>9. World Fair Trade Day 11 May 2019</p> <p>Cllr. Brown noted that World Fair Trade Day is on Saturday 11 May 2019. Group members were asked they were holding events to take place over this period.</p> <p>Tracy Mitchell (Just Trading Scotland) indicated that Just Trading Scotland would be undertaking various activities throughout the period. They intend on doing promotions on gift packs and celebrating their 10th anniversary on social media on or around World Fair Trade Day.</p> <p>Action: Support Just Trading Scotland in promotion of events</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CG/RC/ Comms</p> |
| <p>10. Dye Vat for Cambodia</p> <p>Colin Grainger provided an update on the Dye Vat that is due to arrive in Cambodia. The group were provided with 'press packs' that showed some of the articles that had been published in local and national press (copy enclosed).</p> <p>The Dye Vat is due to arrive at the end of April and Colin noted that the Coats group had got in touch to say that they will be able to service the Vat by sending an engineer from their South Asia base in Vietnam, when it arrives in Cambodia to ensure that it is in full working order.</p> | |
| <p>11. Any other Competent Business</p> <p>Tracy Mitchell highlighted an upcoming event at Usher Hall in Edinburgh by Hand Up Events. It is a World Fair Trade Gathering Concert and Ceilidh to celebrate World Fair Trade Day. The event is to be held Saturday 11 May 2019.</p> <p>http://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/world-fair-trade-day-gathering</p> | |
| <p>12. Provisional date of next meeting(s)</p> <p>Wednesday 14 August, Wednesday 6 November.</p> | |

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| <p>13. Closing Remarks</p> <p>Cllr. Brown thanked the group for their attendance.</p> | |

Dye Vat Press Pack

Historic Coats dye vat will travel across the world

barrheadnews.com/news/17504631.historic-coats-dye-vat-will-travel-across-the-world/



Historic Coats dye vat will travel across the world

A PIECE of thread-making history is set to transform production for a fairtrade organisation in Cambodia.

A historic dye vat, formerly used in the famous Coats mills in both Paisley and Newton Mearns, is being gifted to fairtrade thread-maker Villageworks.

The firm creates products using the Coats thread, as well as producing the world's first fairtrade tartan.

The artefact has been an exhibit at Paisley's Thread Mill Museum since the closure of the Coats mill in Newton Mearns.

On a visit to Renfrewshire to mark World Fairtrade Day last year, producer Noum Bunnak, also known as Anak, visited the museum to celebrate her links using the famous thread in her products.

And the dye vat caught her eye as having the potential to revolutionise production for her artisans in Cambodia.

The dye vat has now been decommissioned from the museum, prompting arrangements through Renfrewshire Council and Fair Trade Scotland to donate it to Villageworks.

Anak said: “We’re extremely happy to be receiving this gift from the Paisley Thread Mill Museum and it’s great that the area is a supporter of fairtrade.

“As a social business, fairtrade is very important to us as we strive to raise the fairness and living wage for Cambodian artisans.

“The dye vat will be used to make a range of products, including dyeing the world’s first fairtrade tartan, further enhancing and maintaining its links to Scotland.

“We hope the dye vat will improve our production by giving a better colour matching and uniformity and allow us to produce a better quality product.”

Mary McKeown, vice-chair of Paisley Thread Mill Museum, added: “We’re delighted this historic dye vat will be brought back to life when it reaches Cambodia.

“It was used for generations by Paisley’s famous thread-makers Coats at their mills here and it is fitting it will be used by Villageworks to create fantastic products which use the Coats thread.

“It is yet another piece of rich history which is helping to retell the area’s unique story to the world.”

The World Fair Trade Organisation and Fair Trade Scotland have been working with Villageworks and textile designers House of Edgar to produce the world’s first fairtrade tartan, which has been recognised by the Keeper of Scottish Tartans Register.

The dye vat will facilitate quicker and more efficient production of the tartan in Cambodia.

Piece of Paisley's thread

fairtradescotland.co.uk/2019/03/22/elementor-658/



Anak, from Villageworks, was sponsored to visit Scotland in May 2018, as part of the World Fair Trade Day celebrations, and one of her trips was to visit Paisley Threadmill Museum. Villageworks uses Coats Thread and during a conversation with Stephen Clancy, about the history of Coats and their association with Paisley, Anak was shown some museum pieces that were being stored. One of these was the Dye Vat (in the picture) which was decommissioned when the mill closed. Anak mentioned that it was such a shame, as this would certainly have been of use to her as the artisans can only dye a small batch of thread at a time, as with hand dyeing it is difficult to maintain a consistency of colour. As Villageworks are producing the WFTO Fair Tartan accessories we joked that perhaps she could have it should it become available. By pure coincidence the museum had to relocate some of its 'exhibits' and Stephen contacted Fair Trade Scotland to see if sending it to Anak would be a viable option. Renfrewshire Council, as part of their commitment to fair trade, offered to arrange for the Dye Vat to be sent to Cambodia.

Piece of Paisley's thread making history set to produce world's first fair trade tartan in Cambodia

renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/8703/Piece-of-Paisleys-thread-making-history-set-to-produce-worlds-first-fair-trade-tartan-in-Cambodia

Renfrewshire Council

A piece of Paisley's illustrious thread making past is set to transform production for a fair trade organisation in Cambodia.



The historic dye vat, which was once used in Paisley's famous Coats mills, is being gifted to fair trade thread maker Villageworks who create products using the Coats thread as well as producing the world's first fair trade tartan.

The artefact has been an exhibit at Paisley Thread Mill Museum since the closure of the Coats mill in Newton Mearns when it was gifted to the museum to protect its history.

On a visit to Renfrewshire to mark World Fair Trade Day last year, fair trade producer Noum Bunnak, also known as Anak, visited Paisley Thread Mill Museum to celebrate her links using Paisley's famous Coats Thread in her products.

The dye vat exhibit caught her eye as having the potential to revolutionise production for her artisans in Cambodia in contrast to its status as a museum exhibit in Renfrewshire, as currently dyes are

mixed in a large bowl in slow, time-consuming process.

Subsequently, the Thread Mill Museum decommissioned the dye vat from the museum which prompted arrangements to be made through Renfrewshire Council and Fair Trade Scotland to donate the vat to Villageworks. Anak said: "We're extremely happy to be receiving this gift the Paisley Thread Mill Museum and it's great that Renfrewshire is a supporter of fair trade.

"As a social business, fair trade is very important to us as we strive to raise the fairness and living wage for Cambodian artisans.

"The dye vat will be used to make a range of products including dyeing the world's first fair trade tartan, further enhancing and maintaining its links to Scotland.

"We hope that the dye vat will improve our production by giving a better colour matching and uniformity and allow us to produce a better quality product."



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The vat has been exhibited as an example of Paisley's historic thread making past before being decommissioned to allow other items to be showcased in the museum.



Mary McKeown, Vice-Chair of Paisley Thread Mill Museum, said: "We're delighted that this historic dye vat will be brought back to life when it reaches Cambodia. "It was used for generations by Paisley's famous thread makers Coats at their mills here in Paisley and it is fitting that it will be used by Villageworks to create fantastic products in Cambodia which use the Coats thread. "It is yet another piece of Paisley's rich history which is helping to retell the town's unique story of culture and heritage to the world."

The World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) and Fair Trade Scotland have been working closely with Villageworks and textile designers House of Edgar to produce the world's first fair trade tartan, which has been recognised by the Keeper of Scottish Tartans Register.

2/23

Tania Pramschufer, Director of

World Fair Trade

Tartan & Hand Up Events, who created the fair trade tartan said: "It's incredible that this dye vat is headed to Cambodia where the first World Fair Trade Tartan is woven and I look forward to seeing it in action when the World Fair Trade Tartan clan visit in October.

"I created this tartan to weave connections around the world through fair trade, to support WFTO GS members and support Scotland as a Fair Trade Nation, and this dye vat will make a huge positive impact."

The dye vat will facilitate quicker, more efficient production of the tartan in Cambodia.





Eve Broadis, Director at Fair Trade Scotland, said: "While it may seem a small gesture, the dye vat will make production easier and more efficient which can make a huge difference to these producers. "We work closely with Anak to help her, and her community, produce high-quality products which can be sold not just for a fair price, but one which ensures a living wage is paid to the artisans. "As a mission-led organisation, we want to make a positive difference wherever we can and projects such as this are a fantastic way to change the lives of those involved."

The transport of the vat to Cambodia is being funded by the Renfrewshire Fairtrade Steering Group as the group sets out to raise awareness of the importance of fair trade and encourage local people to support the cause.

Chair of the Steering Group, Renfrewshire Council Leader Iain Nicolson, said: "We're delighted to play our part in transporting this historic piece of Paisley's history to Cambodia to allow our famous thread making industry to continue.

"While it was purely an illustration of our past, it will make a real difference to the lives of the artisans in Cambodia in the present and we're happy we can make a positive difference to those who need it.

"Providing this dye vat will increase and improve production which will mean the producers can get a fairer price for the fantastic work they do, creating a better life for them and their communities."

The dye vat will be shipped to Cambodia in mid-March to allow Villageworks to bring the historic piece back to life and implement it into their production process.

Published 11 March 2019.



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<https://www.the-gazette.co.uk/news/17504631.historic-coats-dye-vat-will-travel-across-the-world/>

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Mary McKeown, vice-chair of Paisley Thread Mill Museum, added: "We're delighted this historic dye vat will be brought back to life when it reaches Cambodia.

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Paisley's textile past to help Cambodia create world's first fair trade tartan

thenational.scot/news/17492859.paisleys-textile-past-to-help-cambodia-create-worlds-first-fair-trade-tartan/

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