Hampshire Fairtrade Network - Secretary’s Report – July 2015

* The first thing is to congratulate Eastleigh on achieving Fairtrade Status! Well done! Thank you also for hosting us this year.
* There is not a great deal to report. You all have a copy of the official annual report that Charles has produced which summarises our official activities. Thank you Charles.
* Members of The Hampshire Fairtrade Network continue to network!
* As usual, Jeremy Hicks has continued to run the HFN website.
  + He receives information about what we were all up to and publicises it on the HFN website. He is happy to publicise more, but can only upload what he is sent!
  + He recently updated the HFN website.
  + He also maintains the HFN circulation list. If you forward information on, please make sure that all your people want to receive HFN stuff! Thank you Jeremy.
* At last year’s AGM Daphne Bright agreed to take over from me as our link with the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. She negotiated an excellent membership fee and persuaded enough groups to contribute so that the cost was kept low for all of us.
  + Some of the groups have worked together to run Fairtrade stands at the Chamber networking events over the last year.
  + We are still massively under-using the opportunities that our membership offers.
* It would be good to take another look at how we can move forward with getting Hampshire recognised as a FT County. Maybe we could link it with Eastleigh’s new status…? What do we need to do next?
* As was mentioned last year, Charles and I have been in post since the creation of the HFN and are looking to stand down. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that this will be my last AGM as secretary. As I’ve mentioned, last year Daphne rose to the challenge and took on the role as Chamber link, please will you all consider taking on the leadership of this network.

Any questions?

Rachel Hicks - July 2015