

Garstang Fairtrade

Chair of our group, Ruth Bruce, was invited by Garstang Town Council to attend a virtual meeting of the Town Council. There had been a request to set up a market town working group to look at opportunities and a rescue plan for Garstang High Street. As Garstang is the first Fairtrade Town in the world, we were asked to contribute to the discussions.

Ruth has been nominated for the Good Citizen Award 2020 given by Garstang Town Council. Unfortunately, the awards presentation ceremony was postponed but will be rearranged as soon as practicable. She said "this was a complete surprise and I would not even have been nominated if it had not been for all the support and help, I have had from the group. This nomination, as far as I am concerned, is for the team".

We should have been holding a Fairtrade Awareness Day on 20th June outside the Market Hall. However, we agreed that this was not a good idea with trying to arrange social distancing, so we rightly decided to cancel.

We have been informed that the Arts Festival has also been cancelled so we cannot offer afternoon tea as planned. We are hoping it might be possible to still hold the event when the Arts Centre reopens.

We have spoken to Britain in Bloom and although the competition cannot go ahead for obvious reasons, the Bloomers are still hoping to dress the big barrow outside of Sainsbury's in Fairtrade Colours and we are hoping to add a banner celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Garstang being a Fairtrade Town.

St Mary and Michael Church have had their certification as a Church renewed. The citation states:

"Thank you very much for your re-commitment for St Mary and St Michael's RC Church to remain a Fairtrade place of worship. Congratulations on your hard work in promoting the Fairtrade Mark. Such enthusiasm from all over the UK means more than 7500 churches, mosques, temples and synagogues have now pledged to use and promote Fairtrade."

Just before lockdown St. Michael's C of E School asked if someone from Fairtrade would like to give a talk. This will be picked up when schools are back functioning again.

There has been a Schools Competition to decorate a card celebrating 25years of the Fairtrade Mark which we supported by encouraging schools in Garstang and the surrounding area to take part. In total 18 primary, 4 secondary and 1 special school entered. The competition was arranged and judged by Fairtrade Lancashire who were arranging a display in County hall prior to lockdown.

Peter Ryder