

# Lindfield celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight

On Saturday 9th March, Fairtrade Lindfield celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight by holding a 'Fairer World Brunch' at King Edward Hall with 120 people attending. Peter Desmond, Fairtrade Lindfield Steering Group member, highlighted the interest in the event: "People came from Lindfield and the local area as they wanted to know more about Fairtrade and local food production, as well as be inspired to take personal action towards reducing their environmental impact."

People enjoyed tea, coffee, sugar, bananas and chocolate provided by Fairtrade producers in developing countries. The food served was supplied by shops in Lindfield High Street and local producers of meat, cheese, bread and vegetables, including: Paul's the Greengrocer, Cottenhams Butchers and Co-op Food.

Those attending also heard from speakers on Fairtrade, sustainability, waste and practical action. Peter Desmond explained that the Brunch was inspired by Tearfund, a Christian International Development Charity.

Next, Jeremy Burdett, of Cockhaise Farm, talked about the challenges of being a sustainable organic dairy farm. Jeremy explained: "True sustainability implies an enterprise which naturally renews itself while operating; not a perpetual motion machine but something that has a balance between inputs and outputs."

Colin McFarlin, West Sussex Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor, gave a talk on the history of plastic

since its invention in 1862 and its importance as a packaging material since then. Yet its durability is now causing major problems, as seen in the BBC documentary Blue Planet II. Colin provided a guidance on how our recycling can generate income for West Sussex.



Finally, Chris Lee of Fairtrade Lindfield concluded the talks by offering practical tips on what personal action we can take to make a positive contribution to reducing our environment impact. Examples included: switching from cling film to wax wraps, moving from bottled shampoo to a bar and changing to a 'green' energy provider.

Feedback from the event emphasised how relevant these subjects were to local people and that they were happy to pledge their support for improving livelihoods locally and globally as well as reducing their environmental impact. Tours are to be arranged of Cockhaise Farm and the recycling facility in Arundel, so people can see for themselves what a difference they can make.

Anyone wanting to learn about future activities can join the Fairtrade Lindfield Facebook page: @FairtradeLindfield



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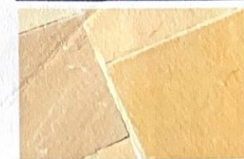
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