

Lindfield to become a Fairtrade Village

Lindfield residents and members of All Saints Church, Chris Lee and Peter Desmond, are looking to have Lindfield accredited as a 'Fairtrade Village'. This will recognise that Lindfield is a community which thinks globally as well as locally. Support has been given by Lindfield Parish Council and the process of applying to the Fairtrade Foundation for accreditation has begun.

The Fairtrade mark means that producers of goods in developing countries are guaranteed a price to cover the costs of sustainable production. An additional premium is built into the price we pay, which allows the producer communities to invest in local infrastructure such as education and health. Fairtrade also ensures safer and ethical working conditions.

One question continues to be asked: "Should I buy local produce to support farmers in the surrounding area or Fairtrade goods to support producers in developing countries?" In fact, it is possible to do both as most Fairtrade products don't have a local equivalent. Also, it is no longer the case that Fairtrade products are inferior quality at a more expensive price.

Several shops and cafes in Lindfield are already selling a range of Fairtrade foodstuffs and a number of organisations are using Fairtrade goods. Other nearby towns and villages are also Fairtrade accredited, including Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, and Horsham.

A stall is being organised at Village Day on Saturday 3rd June when visitors will be able to sample a range of Fairtrade products. Visit the stall and try some of the range for yourself.

"Our everyday buying decisions can make a real difference to the lives of the poorest people in the world," said Peter.

More information is available from the Fairtrade Foundation website:
www.fairtrade.org.uk



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