

**Client:** Mid Ulster District Council  
**Source:** Dungannon Herald  
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Participating students are pictured with the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph, Fairtrade farmer and producer in India; Kevin McCullough, Head of Campaigns with the Fairtrade Foundation; and Yvonne Zellmann, Mid Ulster District Council.

## Local pupils urged to help Mid Ulster achieve Fairtrade status

PUPILS from Dungannon and south Tyrone were given a valuable insight into the work of the Fairtrade organisation, at a special event last week.

To mark Fairtrade Fortnight which takes place from February 26 - March 11, Mid Ulster District Council organised a 'Meet the Producer' at the Hill of The O'Neill in Dungannon.

Children had the opportunity to hear from Fairtrade producer and Chairman of WOFFA (WSSS Organic Farmers Fairtrade Association), John Joseph, farmer of coffee and spices in India.

Mr Joseph, founder of WOFFA, an ordained Priest and qualified lawyer, gave partici-

pants an interesting insight into rural life in his native community and how Fairtrade played a role in changing the lives of Indian farmers and producers for the better.

The pupils were then given the chance to put their questions to Mr Joseph which led to much interesting conversation.

Questions included: "How has your life changed since becoming a Fairtrade farmer?", "Why do farmers not get paid enough?", and "Does the Fairtrade premium help farmers to purchase machinery?"

Participants also heard from Kevin McCullough, Head of Campaigns with the Fairtrade Foundation. He highlighted to them the many opportunities

for schools to get involved and become a Fairtrade School.

Speaking at the event, Chair of the Council, Councillor Kim Ashton, said, "The theme of today's Fairtrade schools event was 'Meet the Producer' and I would sincerely like to thank John Joseph for making the effort and taking the time to travel

here today all the way from India to help shine a light on the issue of Fairtrade to our local students.

"As part of our wider work on sustainable development Mid Ulster District Council is committed to actively supporting Fairtrade. Activities during Fairtrade Fortnight are a great way of doing this and we would



encourage all schools and indeed the wider community to get involved and help us achieve Fairtrade status for the district."

Mr Joseph said, "Fairtrade Fortnight is creating awareness among the local people about the need for expressing their solidarity towards farmers in the Third World who are struggling to meet their needs through agriculture. Fairtrade means a decent and justified price, matching the cost of production to bring farmers a sustainable income."

Students also took part in a Fairtrade Quiz at the event where they could win one of three Fairtrade hampers for their school. The winners were Carnall PS, Derrychrin PS and Moneymore PS. Runners up were Howard PS and Windmill IPS.

Mid Ulster District Council is committed to supporting the Fairtrade campaign and actively promotes the purchase of products with the Fairtrade Mark including the use of Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar at all internal meetings.

- For more information on Fairtrade contact Yvonne Zellmann, Sustainability Officer, on 03000 132 132 or email [yvonne.zellmann@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:yvonne.zellmann@midulstercouncil.org).



Pictured with the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph, Fairtrade farmer and producer in India; and Kevin McCullough, Head of Campaigns with the Fairtrade Foundation, are students from Carnall PS who were winners of the First Prize Fairtrade Baking Hamper.



Students from Derrychrin P.S who were winners of the second prize Fairtrade Tea and Coffee Event in School Hamper.



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		<b>Size:</b>	869
		<b>Value:</b>	1242.67

PUPILS AND TEACHERS LEARN FROM COUNCIL EVENT

# 'Meet the Fairtrade Producer'

**BY STAFF REPORTER**  
news@midulstermail.co.uk  
@MidUMail

**Forty pupils and 10 teachers from 10 local Primary and Post-Primary Schools in Mid Ulster attended a schools event this week to mark Fairtrade Fortnight, which takes place until March 11.**

The event, organised by Mid Ulster District Council, took place at Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon and the theme was 'Meet the Producer'.

Students had the opportunity to hear from Fairtrade producer and Chairman of WOFFA (WSSS Organic Farmers Fairtrade Association), John Joseph, farmer of coffee and spices in India.

Mr Joseph, founder of WOFFA, and also an ordained priest and qualified lawyer, gave participants an interesting insight into rural life in his native community, and how Fairtrade played a role in changing the lives of Indian farmers and producers for the better. Students were then given the chance to put their questions to Mr Joseph which led to much interesting conversation. Questions included: "How has your life changed since becoming a Fairtrade farmer?", "Why do farmers not get paid enough?", and "Does the Fairtrade premium help farmers to purchase machinery?"

Participants also heard from Kevin McCullough, Head of Campaigns with the

Fairtrade Foundation. He highlighted to them the many opportunities for schools to get involved and become a Fairtrade School.

Speaking at the event, Chair of the Council, Councillor Kim Ashton, said: "The theme of today's Fairtrade schools event was 'Meet the Producer', and I would sincerely like to thank John Joseph for making the effort and taking the time to travel here today all the way from India to help shine a light on the issue of Fairtrade to our local students.

"As part of our wider work on sustainable development, Mid Ulster District Council is committed to actively supporting Fairtrade. Activities during Fairtrade Fortnight are a great way of doing this and we would encourage all schools and indeed the wider community to get involved and help us achieve Fairtrade status for the district."

Mr Joseph added: "Fairtrade Fortnight is creating awareness among the local people about the need for expressing their solidarity towards farmers in the Third World who are struggling to meet their needs through agriculture. Fairtrade means a decent and justified price, matching the cost of production to bring farmers a sustainable income."

Students also took part in a Fairtrade Quiz for one of three Fairtrade hampers. The winners were Carnall P.S, Derrychrin P.S. and Moneymore P.S. Runners up were Howard P.S. and Windmill IPS.



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Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph; Kevin McCullough, Head of Campaigns with the Fairtrade Foundation; and Yvonne Zellmann, Mid Ulster Council.



Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph; Kevin McCullough and students from Derrychrin P.S., winners of the second prize Fairtrade School Hamper.



Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph; Kevin McCullough and students from Carnall P.S., winners of the first prize Fairtrade Baking Hamper.



Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph, Kevin McCullough and students from Money more P.S., winners of the third prize hamper.





PUPILS AND TEACHERS LEARN FROM COUNCIL EVENT

# ‘Meet the Fairtrade Producer’

Head of Campaigns with the  
chris P.S. and Moneymore P.S.  
Runners up were Howard P.S.  
and Windmill IPS.

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Mr Joseph, founder of WOFFA, and also an ordained priest and qualified lawyer, gave participants an interesting insight into rural life in his native community, and how Fairtrade played a role in changing the lives of Indian farmers and producers for the better. Students were then given the chance to put their questions to Mr Joseph which led to much interesting conversation. Questions included: "How has your life changed since becoming a Fairtrade farmer?", "Why do farmers not get paid enough?", and "Does the Fairtrade premium help farmers to purchase machinery?"

Participants also heard from Kevin McCullough,

Fairtrade Foundation. He highlighted to them the many opportunities for schools to get involved and become a Fairtrade School.

Speaking at the event, Chair of the Council, Councillor Kim Ashton, said: "The theme of today's Fairtrade schools event was 'Meet the Producer', and I would sincerely like to thank John Joseph for making the effort and taking the time to travel here today all the way from India to help shine a light on the issue of Fairtrade to our local students.

"As part of our wider work on sustainable development, Mid Ulster District Council is committed to actively supporting Fairtrade. Activities during Fairtrade Fortnight are a great way of doing this and we would encourage all schools and indeed the wider community to get involved and help us achieve Fairtrade status for the district."

Mr Joseph added: "Fairtrade Fortnight is creating awareness among the local people about the need for expressing their solidarity towards farmers in the Third World who are struggling to meet their needs through agriculture. Fairtrade means a decent and justified price, matching the cost of production to bring farmers a sustainable income."

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Fairtrade producer in India and Chairman of WOFFA, farmer John Joseph spoke to students at the Fairtrade Schools event.



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**Value:** 1239.81



Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph; Kevin McCullough, Head of Campaigns with the Fairtrade Foundation; and Yvonne Zellmann, Mid Ulster Council.



Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph; Kevin McCullough and students from Derrychrin P.S., winners of the second prize Fairtrade School Hamper.



Councillor Kim Ashton; John Joseph; Kevin McCullough and students from Carntall P.S., winners of the first prize Fairtrade Baking Hamper.



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		<b>Size:</b>	597
		<b>Value:</b>	1092.51

# Tyrone students learning about changing lives at Fairtrade event

TYRONE students have received an insight into how Fairtrade played a role in changing the lives of Indian farmers and producers for the better.

Some 40 pupils from ten local primary and post-primary schools in Mid Ulster attended the event to mark Fairtrade Fortnight which takes place from February 26-March 11.

The event, organised by Mid Ulster District Council, took place at Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon and the theme was 'Meet the Producer'.

Students had the opportunity to hear from Fairtrade producer and chairman of WOFFA (WSSS Organic Farmers Fairtrade Association), John Joseph, farmer of coffee and spices in India. Mr Joseph, founder of WOFFA, an ordained priest and qualified lawyer, gave participants an interesting insight into rural life in his native community.

Students were then given the chance to put questions to Mr Joseph which led to much interesting conversation about life as a Fairtrade farmer.

Mr Joseph explained, "Fairtrade Fortnight is creating awareness among the local people about the need for expressing their solidarity towards farmers in the Third World who are struggling to meet their needs through agriculture. Fairtrade means a decent and justified price, matching the cost of production to bring farmers a sustainable income."

Participants also heard from Kevin McCullough, head of campaigns with the Fairtrade Foundation.

He highlighted the many opportunities for schools to get involved and become a Fairtrade School.

Mr McCullough said, "Fairtrade Fortnight this year encourages people to learn more about the positive impact Fairtrade has on farmers' livelihoods. This schools event was a great

opportunity for children and young people to learn about consumer power, Fairtrade standards and the difference Fairtrade can make to farmers' lives."

Speaking at the event, chair of the council, Cllr Kim Ashton stressed the council is committed to actively supporting the Fairtrade campaign and promotes the purchase of products with the Fairtrade Mark including the use of Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar at all internal meetings.

For information on Fairtrade contact Yvonne Zellmann, sustainability officer, on 03000 132 132 or email [yvonne.zellmann@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:yvonne.zellmann@midulstercouncil.org).



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