

PRESS RELEASE

Fairtrade Producer Tour of Suffolk Confirmed

The Fairtrade tour of Suffolk will take place in March it has now been confirmed. It will be launched in Felixstowe on Monday 7 March with a breakfast reception at Felixstowe Town Hall hosted by the Mayor of Felixstowe, Doreen Savage. Patrick Kaberia Muthaura, a Fairtrade Tea farmer from Kenya, will tour the county talking to supporters, school children and business people. The tour will cover a number of Fairtrade Towns including Ipswich, Beccles, Lowestoft, Framlingham, Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds as well as Felixstowe. More details on the tour can be obtained by visiting www.suffolkfairtrade.org.uk - a new website for Fairtrade Towns in Suffolk.

Alan Muchal is chairman of the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum, which is co-ordinating the tour on behalf of the Fairtrade Foundation. He said: "We are looking forward to meeting Patrick and hearing at first-hand how buying Fairtrade helps provide stable employment at fair wage rates in developing counties. He has also been involved in deciding, locally, how the 'Fairtrade premium' is spent. This is money set aside for supporting development projects, such as providing clean water, according to priorities set by the community.

In Felixstowe, as well as the launch there will be an event on the afternoon of 7 March for young people, organised in co-operation with Felixstowe's Youth Forum. Local schoolchildren have been preparing for the visit by researching tea production, environmental concerns and development opportunities in Kenya. A display of their work will be put up in the library in the week preceding the visit."

On the Tuesday Patrick will be talking to schoolchildren in Ipswich and visiting the Fair Trade Shop at 20A Upper Brook St, Ipswich. He will then visit Beccles, Lowestoft and Framlingham before returning briefly to Felixstowe on Saturday 12 March to attend a Fairtrade coffee morning at Trinity Methodist Church from 10.00 – 12 noon, open to everyone.

Patrick will complete his tour of Suffolk by visiting Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds.

Note to editors: An outline programme for the tour is attached. You are welcome to send a reporter/photographer to attend the launch. The breakfast itself is by invitation only but personal invitations will be sent to named members of the local media. The breakfast will be 7am for 7.30 and it is anticipated that it will be concluded by about 8.30 am. However there will be an opportunity after then for interviews and photos.

Photos of Patrick and Michimikuru Tea Company, for whom he works, can be found at the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pmu0ydrismv0i9c/AAAzknQvIDjrL5_q0JQOjj3ea?dl=0 Please

credit the Fairtrade Foundation if you use any of these. I also include a profile of Patrick and the Michimikuru Tea Company supplied by the Fairtrade Foundation.

Contact Alan Muchal on 01394 274005 or Stephen Wyatt on 01394 671033 for further information (not for publication).

Fairtrade Producer Tour of Suffolk (6 -13 March 2016)

	Date	Activity	Location
1	Sunday 6/3	Guests arrive pm in Felixstowe.	Felixstowe
2	Monday 7/3	7.30 a.m. Breakfast launch of the tour at Felixstowe Town Hall, Undercliff Rd, hosted by the Mayor of Felixstowe, Doreen Savage. Up to 50 guests including supporters, media and businesses.	Felixstowe
3		4 p.m. Youth event at Level Two Youth Centre, Cobbold Rd. Organised in conjunction with Felixstowe's Youth Forum. Up to 70 children and parents from local schools. Children are preparing material for the event which will be displayed at the local library beforehand.	Felixstowe
4	Tuesday 8/3	Morning visit to Copelston High School, Copelston Rd, Ipswich to meet students and members of their Eco group. The Mayor and members of the Ipswich Fairtrade steering group will also be there.	Ipswich
5		Lunch at Suffolk New College followed by a visit to the Ipswich Fairtrade shop at 20A Upper Brook Street. Return to Felixstowe.	Ipswich
	Wednesday 9/3	Rest day.	
6	Thursday 10/3	Middle of the day. Visit to Sir John Leman High School, Ringsfield Rd, Beccles.	Beccles
7		7.30 pm Meet Kenyan tea grower Patrick Kaberia Muthaura at Hungate Church, Beccles. Fairtrade refreshments. All welcome.	Beccles
8	Friday 11/3	Morning - breakfast event at Pakefield Primary School, London Rd, Pakefield, Lowestoft.	Lowestoft
9		Talk to year 12 pupils at Framingham College at 1.30 pm. Followed by an informal tea open tea party from 3pm to 4pm in the library, with the opportunity to meet the press.	Framlingham
10	Saturday 12/3	10 am to 12.00 noon Informal coffee morning at Trinity Methodist Church, Hamilton Rd, Felixstowe. This will provide an opportunity to meet the public. All welcome. (Refreshments courtesy of East of England Co-op.)	Felixstowe
11		6.30 pm an event at St. John's Methodist Church Hall in Sudbury.	Sudbury

12	Sunday 13/3	10 am. Address at Trinity Methodist Church, Brentgovel St, Bury St Edmunds, followed by a Fairtrade brunch with members of the congregation.	Bury St Edmunds
13		3 pm. Open event at The Centre, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds. Councillors, business people and Fairtrade supporters have been invited. All welcome. Fairtrade refreshments.	Bury St Edmunds