

PRESS RELEASE

Fairtrade Producer Tour Launched in Felixstowe

The Fairtrade producer tour of Suffolk was launched today (7 March) at a breakfast reception at Felixstowe Town Hall. Patrick Kaberia Muthaura, a Fairtrade farmer from Kenya is touring Suffolk for the coming week as part of events to mark Fairtrade Fortnight.

Patrick said:

“I am very happy to be in Suffolk and to be meeting all those who have supported Fairtrade in this area. By buying Fairtrade products and supporting the Fairtrade movement people are helping people in my country earn a decent living and educate their children. I am hoping that on this tour I can encourage even more people to support Fairtrade. I am particularly looking forward to speaking to young people in Suffolk, which forms a big part of the tour. I will explain to them how climate change is affecting how we grow our crops and how we are working with the Fairtrade Foundation to take steps to adapt to the new situation.”

After the launch Patrick was due to talk to local school children at the Level Two youth centre in Felixstowe. The town's Youth Forum has been heavily involved in planning for this event and children in local schools have been active in researching Fairtrade, Kenya and tea production over the past few months. A display of some of the work they have produced is on display at the library during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Patrick returns to Felixstowe on Saturday 12 March when he will attend a Fairtrade coffee morning at Trinity Methodist Church 10 am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome.

Patrick will also be visiting other Fairtrade towns in Suffolk. On Tuesday 8 March he will be speaking to schoolchildren in Ipswich before visiting the Fairtrade shop at 20A Upper Brook St. On Thursday he will be in Beccles before moving on to Lowestoft and Framlingham on Friday. On Saturday, after the coffee morning in Felixstowe, he will travel to Sudbury and from there to Bury St Edmunds. He will spend his final day in Suffolk on Sunday in Bury before returning to London. Full details on the tour can be found at www.suffolkfairtrade.org.uk

Note to editors: An outline programme for the tour is attached. 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. A profile of Patrick and the Michimikuru Tea Company supplied by the Fairtrade Foundation will be included with this press release.

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 have prepared material for the event which is on display at Felixstowe Library.	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 at 2.45 (photo opportunity). 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 Framlingham 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
		Open event at St John's Methodist Church, York	

11		Road, Sudbury. CO10 1ND. Fairtrade refreshments will be served from 6:00pm with the talk beginning at 6:30pm.	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