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Happy New Year and Welcome to your first volunteer update for 2022



Shared Interest Social Accounts 2021 are now available online [HERE](#)

Fast Facts

Keeping you up to date at a glance

Share Capital currently stands at **£51.7 million** with **10,485** Share Accounts.

The current value of approved lending is **£62 million**. In addition to this, we have **25 producer groups** in our pipeline awaiting finance.

Interest rate to members is currently 0.1% as of 1st October 2021.

Welcomes and Farewells

We are delighted to welcome Madeline to our Spanish Translator team. We are currently recruiting a few more Translators and look forward to welcoming them in the next issue. We are also recruiting for a new volunteering role to support Shared Interest Foundation, **Trusts and Foundations Researcher**. If you are interested in this role, or know someone who might be, check out the role outline which is available on our website or get in touch.

We hope you find the information in this latest newsletter helpful. We try to include something for everyone and your thoughts on what's good and what needs improving are always welcome - we would love to hear your feedback.



Upcoming Opportunities and New Publications

We are starting 2022 with lots of opportunities for you to get involved

Events catch up - aimed at Ambassadors and Community Supporters, this event will take place on Thurs 20th Jan (10am) and Tues 25th Jan (2pm) via Zoom. This is an opportunity for us to share plans of Fairtrade Fortnight and the year ahead, as well as updating you on our new resources available.

Strategic Review Workshop - On the 31st Jan we will be holding two workshops on zoom to discuss some key questions in the review process. Please RSVP if you would like to join one of these workshops and be sure to let us know whether you would like to attend at 10am or 2pm.

Research Tasks - open to all, task completion dates in February and March. We are looking for support with a number of desk top research tasks to help us develop our longitudinal case studies, in depth studies of customers who have been with us for five years or more. For more information get in touch or keep an eye on your inbox as we will be circulating the task outlines shortly.

A number of new publications are also now available via our website [HERE](#). These include:

- Shared Interest Social Accounts 2021
- Shared Interest Society Annual Review 2021
- Shared Interest Foundation Annual Review 2021

We have added the Volunteer Resource Library to our website. You can now find this [HERE](#)



Your questions answered

In this regular feature, we hope to answer many of the FAQs you may encounter when talking to friends, family or the public about our work.

Please explain how Shared Interest supports buyers?

You may have read in our social accounts that some of our finance is used to support buyer organisations. Ninety-two per cent of funds lent to buyers are used to pre-finance orders. (Fair trade buyers are required to provide producers with a 50% payment on placing an order as per the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) Fair Trade Principles and FLO Standards). This can put financial pressure on the buyer's cash flow and Shared Interest plays a vital role in filling this gap by sending money to producers on behalf of the buyer. The lines of credit provided to buyers allow them to not only improve cash flow but also to pay artisans and/or farmers upfront, to enable them to secure the raw materials in order to deliver the goods on time. In addition, many buyer organisations send payments to producer groups that are too small or too risky for Shared Interest to support directly, or are located in countries where we cannot provide funds. For example, we are unable to lend directly to producer organisations in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan due to their current financial regulation but by providing a facility to buyer organisations, we can indirectly assist these producers to access working capital.

If you have a question you would like answered please submit it to us at volunteers@shared-interest.com



Our Volunteering Aims for 2022

Our volunteering aims for 2022 are....

- Have Shared Interest involvement in 80 actual and virtual events and activities
- Celebrate Volunteers' Week with a second online Volunteer Festival in June 2022
- Carry out a volunteer survey to help us understand more about the impact your volunteering has on you as well as Shared Interest
- Develop new opportunities for Data Entry and Translator volunteers to continue supporting our needs in these areas



What's been happening and what's on the horizon

A round up of recent and upcoming activity

The run up to Christmas was quiet but Ian, Shelagh and Vivienne were able to attend events in their local areas to spread the word about Shared Interest.

Translators supported our Lending Team with some new materials for engaging new customers.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 is on the horizon (21st Feb - 6th March) and we are working with partners including Fair Trade Wales, Scottish Fair Trade Forum and the National Campaigner Committee on joint online events. There are opportunities for Ambassadors and Community Supporters to deliver talks at some of our planned events so please get in touch if you're interested. Shared Interest are also hosting a series of online events focusing on the impacts of climate change on our customers and project participants around the world. The events will take place throughout Fairtrade Fortnight and you can find out more [HERE](#)

Late last year we created a profile on speaker finder site '**Speaker Net**' and we have received our first enquiry inviting a Shared Interest speaker to talk to a North-East based business in a lunch and learn event for their staff. The opportunity is open to Ambassadors or Community Supporters to give a talk (online), there are two slots available. These sessions will be taking place on 29th April. Get in touch if you're interested in hearing more about this opportunity.

What we've been reading, watching and listening to

A round up of what's caught our attention recently.



FAIRTRADE LIVE FROM COP26. There was so much to hear during COP26 that we've had to take some time to catch up on things we missed. [HERE](#) you'll find recordings of three key sessions from COP26 which include contributions from Fairtrade International.

INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE TOWN CONFERENCE 2021. This popular event went online in November last year and you can find recordings of the presentation and an interactive map of the global Fair Trade Towns Community [HERE](#)

2040. This film (showing on Netflix) explores what the world could look like in 2040 if we embrace the best in what we have available today. This film was recommended by Ambassador Phil, you can watch the trailer [HERE](#) and watch the film in full via Netflix.

Our mission is to provide financial services and business support to make livelihoods and living standards better for people as they trade their way out of poverty.

By volunteering for a fairer world, you make the difference.

Thank you.



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