

Fairtrade status for town again

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HUNTLY has been named a Fairtrade Town once again.

The Huntly Ethical Trading Initiative (HETI) has started the new year by having Huntly's Fairtrade Town status renewed.

HETI's award winning team of dedicated volunteers aims to provide people with information about ethical, eco-friendly and Fairtrade choices. The great recognition mean Huntly has enjoyed continuous Fairtrade Town status since 2010. During the past few years, HETI chairperson Ellie Turner said, more community groups have signed up to pledge their support of Fairtrade.

She added: "Since our last renewal in 2019, the pandemic curtailed our programme of events.



Marking the renewal are Les Murray (Huntly Rotary), Ellie Turner (HETI), Fiona Murray (Friends of Jubilee Hospital) Christine Sell (HETI) and Jenny Salmean (Deveron Projects).

"But to continue momentum, we encouraged people to join in online events and to post activities on our Facebook page." However, when restrictions were lifted, the group was able to resume our campaigning.

"We highlighted the plight of coffee and cocoa

farmers; celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Fairtrade Mark; asked people to make environmental pledges; and welcomed a farmer and a teacher from Malawi who spoke about how the Fairtrade premium that is paid to farmers registered with the scheme,

had helped to bring a series of freshwater wells to their town," she said.

"Our bunting which is made from Fairtrade and recycled materials has been used many times, including at the Hairst and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations; and we're even in Huntly's Time Capsule waiting to be discovered by a future generation. We've engaged with more local groups than ever before and held collaborative events like the family festive crafting event with Deveron Projects last Christmas. And, of course, we won a national award for our innovative work with the new Huntly Women's Football Team."

To join the team, visit the Ethical Gift Shop and Refillery on Duke Street or for more about HETI, visit the Facebook page.