

# SI Grange - over - Sands



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Grange - over - Sands club are delighted to have been selected as a Best Practice award winner

## Walking the Fair Trade Way for Chocolate making workshops for girls in Ghana



**Women inspiring action,  
transforming lives**

Welcome to our project about chocolate, walking and education all of which are dear to many of our hearts.

## Fair Trade Way Garstang to Keswick



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transforming lives**

Most projects start with a plan. This one started with an E mail from a member of SI Garstang asking if our club could help with bed and breakfast in a month's time for Joanna Pollard, the Chair of the UK Fair Trade Campaigner Committee.

She was planning to walk the 92 mile, long distance footpath, the Fair Trade way in the North West of England which links Garstang ( the first FT town in the UK) to Keswick, also a Fair Trade town. Her plan was to raise awareness of Fair Trade and raise funds for chocolate making workshops for the daughters of cocoa farmers in Ghana. Although Grange was a bit off the route across Morecambe Bay we agreed and our involvement began.

Here is Joanna at the start in Garstang, with the Mayor and a member of SI Garstang and in Keswick 6 days later. We got involved in the middle!

### Train daughters of Ghanaian cocoa farmers how to make chocolate

- **Keep them in school longer**
- **Improve their career prospects**
- **Improve their future prosperity**



  
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So why did we want to get involved ?

The project called Chocolate Has a Name, focussing on girls had great appeal.

Training the girls in chocolate making will reduce the risk of early marriage and childbirth as there's an incentive for the girls to stay in school.

The training will concentrate on the girls aged 13 upwards as that's when they are most likely to leave school.

The girls will be empowered to forge a career beyond subsistence, not just producing cocoa beans but adding value to their product.

The project will educate and empower the girls to improve their life chances.

SDGs

3 Good Health and Well being

4 Quality Education

5 Gender Equality

8 Decent work and economic growth

9 Industry innovation and infrastructure

10 Reduced inequalities within and among countries

## Chocolate

**UK Chocolate industry worth over £4 billion**

**60% of world's cocoa is grown in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa**

**A typical farmer makes 80p / day**

**Fair Trade premium or other support such as Cocoa 360 is a necessity**



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So, here is some background.

Most cocoa beans are exported to Europe and then milled and made into chocolate.

Most cocoa farmers have never tasted chocolate. They can barely support their families, particularly as the price of cocoa has dropped over the last few years causing real hardship.

There is Fairtrade Minimum Price for cocoa and also a Fairtrade Premium, an additional sum of money that farmers can invest in projects of their choosing.

Female cocoa farmers in Ghana earn around 30% less than their male counterparts often due to reduced access to training and finance.



**Cocoa 360**

**AFRICANIWA**

**Kabi  
Chocolate  
(Accra)  
training  
teachers**

**Tarkwa  
Breman  
girls  
school  
5-16yrs**



  
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On the walk Joanna told us about the Chocolate Has a Name project with Africaniwa's representative in Ghana working with Tarkwa Breman girls school. The school is supported by Cocoa 360 and is for the daughters of cocoa farmers.

The project will provide a permanent workshop in the school where the teachers will educate the girls about cocoa production and chocolate making.

The project will train the teachers in chocolate making, provide equipment, ingredients and educational resources.

The workshops will be part history lesson, geography, home economics and business studies.

Africaniwa is a UK organisation which aims to empower and raise attainment in children and young people of Black and African descent, in the UK and abroad.

Cocoa 360 works in communities to invest locally generated revenue in education and healthcare interventions.



## Fair Trade Way

- 92 miles
- 6 'legs'
- Helped on the way by SI clubs Garstang, Lancaster, Grange-over-Sands & Windermere



<https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/United-Kingdom/northwestengland/northwestengland-physical-map.jpg>

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This is the Fair Trade Way in North West England from Garstang to Keswick, due east across the Irish Sea from where we are here in Belfast.

Each blue circle is one of the stops and those with the white centres show where NW Region Soroptimists were involved in some way.

It demonstrates the power of Soroptimism with all the connections we have with each other.

SI Garstang saw Joanna off, SI Lancaster, Grange and Windermere provided bed and breakfast, picnics and hospitality.

Afterwards Joanna said that financially it was a great help having accommodation but most important of all was the friendship of Soroptimists when walking and in the evenings, as long distance walking can be very lonely.

## So what else did SI Grange do?

### Members walked 2 legs of the route with Joanna



**Members provided transport, B+B,  
meals, laundry, picnic & friendship**

  
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So what did Grange do? You could say we went the extra mile!

2 members walked from Lancaster to Arnside. Here you can see me with Joanna at the Slavery memorial in Lancaster, then walking along the Lancaster canal. We covered 16 miles, on river, canal, coastal and hill paths.

We then provided transport to Grange, accommodation and an evening meal with club members, so they could hear about the project from Joanna. The next day a member walked the 13 miles from Arnside to Kendal. We wished we could have walked further 'legs' but it was around the time of the Jubilee celebrations.



## Grange members fundraising



**Sharing  
crowdfunding  
information on  
social media**

**Fundraising with  
chocolate treats,  
& a supper**

**Total raised so  
far - £485**

**Encouraging  
donations**



SI Grange so far has directly contributed £485 of the total raised which currently stands at £7,500 out of the £10,000 target required for full roll out of the project. Everything went well with the project except for the cancellation of the planned train journeys at the start and finish of our walks! In retrospect we should have got personal sponsorship for the walk but at the time we saw ourselves in a supporting role and had less than a month to organise it.

## Chocolate Has A Name: PROGRESS

- Engage community
- Workshop built
- Equipment bought
- Curriculum resources
- Train teachers - 6
- Purchase extra ingredients
- Start workshops



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So far the items in green are complete using the first £6000 raised, and as a pilot, some of the girls from the school have visited Kabi Chocolate to try out making chocolate. This will help the staff there train the six teachers to deliver the workshops.

Joanna is visiting Ghana this autumn to see progress and by December the workshops should start.

## Future plans

### Chocolate has a name

- **Evaluate**
- **Roll out to other schools starting with New Koforidua**
- **Make project self sustaining**

### SI Grange

- **Further fundraising**
- **Involve other clubs**
- **Walk whole of the FT way with sponsorship?**
- **Personal Chocolate tariff ?**

Africaniwa's plan is to roll out the project to other schools starting with New Koforidua which was the 1<sup>st</sup> Fair Trade town in Africa. Its hoped the project will become self sustaining with help from Fair Trade partners and the chocolate world. Farming communities can choose to spend their Fair Trade premium on whatever they feel will help their community and it may be the workshops.

Our club has further plans to support this project – perhaps when we eat non Fair Trade chocolate we put 5p in a jar to support the project?

We are delighted to have been able to support a project that really will improve the lives and prosperity of girls.

Thank you.