

# Coffee farmer gives backing to Fairtrade



COFFEE co-op worker Sam Magona meets Stockport Mayor and Mayoress, Coun Peter Burns and Margaret Burns. (A)

by Kirsty Elleray

TO mark Fairtrade Fortnight, a Stockport Town Hall event featured special guest Sam Magona, who is a Fairtrade coffee grower from Uganda.

Mr Magona is one of the driving forces behind Gumutindo, a young coffee co-operative union and spoke about how Fairtrade directly helps countries such as his.

He also visited venues that support Fairtrade including Cafe-Unity in Heald Green, run by Churches Together and Marple's Toast Deli and Coffee Shop, and he met Aquinas College students.

Executive Councillor Hazel Lees said: "It was fantastic to hear how Fairtrade has improved job security and working conditions for workers at the coffee co-operative.

The event was opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport - Councillor Peter Burns and Margaret Burns - and attended by representatives from Stockport College, Age Concern, Stockport Fairtrade Group, councillors, churches, schools and businesses which back Fairtrade.

Sheila Townsend, from Stockport Fairtrade Group, added: "It was great to see so many local businesses there." The event was also a celebration of Stockport's Fairtrade borough status. See [stockport-fairtrade.org.uk](http://stockport-fairtrade.org.uk) or [www.stockport.gov.uk/fairtrade](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/fairtrade)

**Sam Magona, coffee producer visits Stockport  
for Fairtrade Fortnight 2007**

