



Greetings Everyone,

There is a lot to share with you this month but we will try to keep things succinct!

First of all, big news is that Monica was invited as guest speaker at the [Sustainable Cosmetics Summit](#) in Frankfurt, Germany on November 16-17. Visionary Soap Company was presented as *the* Fair Trade Case Study in Cosmetics and the exposure has been fantastic! Many big name body care companies from around the globe were there and we felt very honoured (if not a bit daunted) to share what we are doing here in the UK. Obviously, the word is out and so much momentum is gathering around us right now.

Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel our Christmas Open Day this year. We weighed this up very carefully and despite being very disappointed to have to do this, everything is so very full-on for us at the moment. With production in full swing and us trying to get orders out to all of you in time for Christmas, its all a bit much. Plus, with large orders looming with [Oxfam UK](#) and [Traidcraft](#) come January, we just don't think we can make the Open Day happen this year. Apologies everyone! We may be able to pull something together for [Fairtrade Fortnight 2010](#).

We have added a new product to our body butter range. We are happy to introduce a [60 ml Orange Geranium Hand & Body Butter](#). These do carry the Fairtrade Mark. Place a minimum order of £25 before the end of November and we will send you a tin for free!

We have placed another soap order with [Township Trades](#). Their new trainers, Sharon Homans and Claire van Zyl, are now in South Africa and working with them on the order - part of which is destined for Traidcraft, with the remaining quantity available through us. Many of you have been increasingly purchasing the soaps from Township Trades and it is a range that is really coming into its own. We will let you know when it arrives. We continue to work through the FLO Certification process and are trying to lay a good foundation for larger, more frequent soap orders to Township Trades going forward. While we will continue to make all of our organic, Fairtrade certified soap here in the UK, we are also very passionate about getting the group certified and integrated into our supply chain as our primary soap manufacturer. Simultaneously, we are also exploring similar soap making projects in Ghana, Nigeria and Palestine. We expect to head out to Nigeria in January for the second phase of a project that Monica participated in May of this year. We hope to work with women's soap making cooperatives in Palestine in 2010 and we are exploring the possibility of a very exciting shea butter and soap making project perhaps in northern Ghana, all in collaboration with soap guru, [Melinda Coss](#).

Visionary Soap Company continues to expand into countries outside of the UK. With stockists now in Japan (check out [Fairtrade Shopping Japan](#)), The Netherlands, The U.S., Canada,

Finland, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Poland and Belgium, we are experiencing an ever increased demand for our products. Our UK customer base continues to grow and please remember, if you would like to see our products in a shop near you, why not ask the shopkeepers to get in touch with us?!

We are working with [Pestalozzi](#) to bring students from Khayelitsha Township in South Africa for the next academic year! Our Pestalozzi apprentices have also formed their own social enterprise and are busy selling products, with proceeds going towards scholarships for these young people. One of our apprentices, Laxmi, marketing manager for the group, joined Monica for Filsham Valley School's Enterprise Day last week, where Visionary Soap Company is the local case study for the students to learn about fair trade, manufacturing, organics, and sustainability. Various other schools around the UK - The Marlborough School in Oxfordshire, Hardley School in Hampshire, Mackie Academy in Aberdeenshire - to name a few, also participate in similar projects with our products.

You can now visit [our Facebook page](#) and become a 'fan' if you so choose. You can view photos (especially those of our fabulous new soap cutter from [Roger Newman](#)), hear about our travels, send us a note, start a discussion, let people know where your shop is, etc. You can also find us on [Twitter](#) by typing in 'visionarysoap.'

We are currently dispatching all orders within 1-3 days but we do ask that you keep timing in mind as we get closer to Christmas. Last day for guaranteed delivery for all online orders is Friday 18 December. Any orders placed after that will be processed but we cannot guarantee arrival for Christmas. Saying that, we will do all that we can to get your gifts out to you in time.