

## **BISHOPSTON TRADING COMPANY**

### **Toy horses, hair decorations and cotton sheets are all part of the latest range of ethical goods from Bishopston Trading**

Colourful toy horses, hair decorations and elegant sheets form part of the latest range from ethical retailer, Bishopston Trading.

The company has extended its number of non-clothing items to capitalise on the growing interest in ethically sourced goods. This season the eclectic range of items for sale in the company's five shops, via its website and through other stockists include:

**Toy horses** – a set of three toy horses at 7, 13 and 18 cms high, made from 100% organic Fairtrade certified cotton with elaborate applique decoration and silver embroidery, priced at £2.90, £3.50 and £4.50.

**Wired flower hair decorations** – made with organic cotton and decorated with applique and glass beads and priced at £4.95

**Fitted sheets** – in several colours and made of 100% Fairtrade certified

cotton. Single sheets are priced at £18.70, double sheets are £20.70 and king-size sheets are £22.50. Duvet covers are also available.

Bishopston Trading recently celebrated 21 years of trading links with the village of KV Kuppam in southern India where it provides employment for more than 500 people.

Director Carolyn Whitwell says: “We started off with one shop in Bristol and four tailors in India. Now the company, which is a workers co-operative, employs 37 people in this country and more than 500 tailors, cutters, craft workers and weavers in KV Kuppam, a village in Tamil Nadu.

“Tailors in KV Kuppam can afford to feed and clothe their families, repair their homes, send their children to school and save for the future. The money they earn is spent locally which, in turn, creates more opportunities for more people.

“In addition to their wages, the staff have access to a provident fund for hard times, healthcare, sickness benefit and retirement.”

Reader contact: Bishopston Trading Company: Tel: 0117 924 5598

Fax: 0117 373 0254

Email: [mail@bishopstontrading.co.uk](mailto:mail@bishopstontrading.co.uk)

Website: [www.bishopstontrading.co.uk](http://www.bishopstontrading.co.uk)

**Captions:**

Pic 1: The toy horses

Pic 2 : Colourful wired flower decoations

Pic 3: Fitted sheets are available with matching pillowcases

Pic 4: A jewellery worker at KV Kuppam

**Notes to editors:** Media enquiries: For more information and high res photographs, contact Helen Riley, Headline Media, on 0208 348 3103 / 07931 300 425 or email [helenriley@headlinemedia.co.uk](mailto:helenriley@headlinemedia.co.uk)

Up-to-date brochures can be sent out on request.

**Background Notes:** Bishopston Trading Company has five retail shops in the West of England (Bristol, Bradford on Avon, Glastonbury, Stroud and Totnes) plus stockists throughout the UK and Europe and a mail order catalogue.

All profits from the company are used to benefit the people of KV Kuppam through the company's registered charity, the South India Rural Development Trust. This Trust has funded an architect-designed factory in the village offering excellent working conditions for the staff.

There is a long tradition of hand-weaving in the village of KV Kuppam, in Tamil Nadu, southern India. The Bishopston Trading Company currently provides employment for more than 200 tailors, cutters and craft workers and 300 weavers.

Many of the tailors and hand-finishers are women who can take advantage of the on-site creche at the factory. Employees are offered secure employment and can remain close to their families rather than seek work elsewhere.

The Bishopston Trading Company is a member of IFAT (The International Fair Trade Association) and BAFTS (British Association for Fair Trade Shops) and licensees of the Fairtrade Foundation.