## FERN Publicity release

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, FERN (Fairtrade East Riding Network) and Beverley Fairtrade Town is pleased to invite everyone to Toll Gavel Methodist Church on Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm to meet Nioka Abbott- Balcombe, a banana farmer from the Windward Islands.

Doors open at 7pm where you will be able to enjoy Fairtrade refreshments (including Fairtrade cakes, bananas and chocolate), a raffle for a Fairtrade hamper, and stalls selling Fairtrade products from 3W, Black Yak, Koteka, Traidcraft, Oxfam and East Riding Youth Assembly. The event is free, but donations will be welcome to cover costs.

Local drama group 'Credo' will open the evening with an original sketch about Bananas and Fair Trade, followed by a presentation by Nioka Abbott-Balcombe. Nioka is on a tour of the country during Fairtrade Fortnight and we are very fortunate to have her visit Beverley so we can learn about the benefits of Fairtrade for banana farmers and the issues affecting them. Bananas are the nation's favourite fruit and most of the Fairtrade bananas we buy locally come from the Windward Islands. There will be an opportunity to ask Nioka questions and to linger to enjoy further refreshments and visit the stalls after the presentation.

For further information contact Ros Stanley (01964 550688) rosstanley@cherryb.karoo.co.uk

member of FERN

Thursday Feb 4th 2010