Amnesty Cirencester Group

Notes of the meeting held 4th March 2013

Present:

Ros Topley, Val Hindson, Bee Maidlow, Virginia Nicholas, Jean Whorwell, Nikki Rawson, Chris Stevens

Apologies:

Claire Morris, Marina Bielenky, Mira Marvan

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February were accepted as a correct record.
2. Matters arising from the minutes
   1. Val will put the notes on the new website
   2. Ros reported from the regional conference that as Kate Allen was unable to attend an evening meeting in Southampton had been arranged to enable discussion of Amnesty restructuring.There will be further discussion at the AGM, our next meeting will discuss the resolutions and decide on the group vote for the AGM, it was acknowledged that some groups would not reach a concensus. Prior to the meeting group members will read the resolutions sent by Ros and decide which to discuss.
   3. Bee and Ros will attend the AGM, Val will attend on Saturday, Nikki will see if places are still available.
3. Programme for the year - Bee had circulated the programme by email. April meeting will discuss resolutions for the AGM, May will receive feedback from the AGM, and letter writing will be in June. Bee reminded everyone that if they suggest an event they are responsible for it’s organisation. The draft programme will be put on the website. Ros will tell the group which workshops are available from AI, one will be selected for July. Ros reminded the group about the forthcoming talk to Stroud group by Olly Spague, campaign manager AIUK on the Arms Control treaty.
4. Monthly mailing –
   1. Explanatory notes, a draft letter and instructions on who to write to trying to prevent violence in Zimbabwe elections was distributed.
   2. A draft letter requesting an oil spill clean up and reparation to local people in Bodo to be sent to the President of Nigeria was also circulated.
   3. The group has actioned the call to stop the execution of Hakamada Iwao previously.
   4. Ros updated the group on the urgent action network, which has been operating for 40 years and achieved some success.
5. Treasurers report

The group had a balance of £1530.53 at the end of February 2013, the replacement cheque to Action Aid for £519.80 has not been cashed, therefore the amount the group has is £1010.73.

There was discussion about the role of labels, the need to continue to run the bookshelf and the general value of fundraising and its importance in group activities.

1. Website and contact list

Val has set up a new email address for contact through the new website, and can change the material on the website.

There is an address list of 327 people in the area who are AI members, but only 24 email addresses.

AI will email everyone in our area with our message once , Val will draft this and circulate for discussion.

Any other known email addresses of interested people to be sent to Val.

Links and attachments can be put on the website.

Dave will take down the old website.

One group has a Facebook page, is this the way forward?

1. Campaigns

A campaign update on women’s rights in Afganistan was circulated, Val will contact the local MP . There was discussion on whether women should be prioritised when the whole population of the country has major needs, but noted that the letter to the MP does not prioritise women.

1. Events.

There was discussion on whether we should aim to have a quiz this year, AI has a pack on how to organise one, we would need a list of tasks to organise this.

Val will ask the farm shop if they are willing to hold an event for AI,if so, this could be a quiz or a film night.

Nikki is organising a presence at the Churn Valley Fun day.

1. AOB

Jean receive a letter from the local MP expressing general support for our work and concerns.

1. Date of next meeting Monday 8th April.