**Amnesty Cirencester Group**

**Notes of meeting held on 6th January 2014**

**Present:** Valerie Hindson, Jean Whorwell, Marina Bielenky, Ros Topley, Mike Smith and Lyndsey McLellan

**Apologies:** Chris Stevens, Bee Maidlow

We welcomed Mike and Lyndsey to the group. Mike attended the group a number of years ago as a teenager. They are active members of Edinburgh group and are only in Cirencester temporarily on route to Uganda.

**Minutes from 2nd September 2013**

The minutes from 2nd September were approved as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

* Chris has sent the £500 to AI
* Chris called AI to find out why we have not paid for the address label advert recently. The magazine is now less often, but she confirmed it was in the last one but in a different format. Marina to check it will be in the next one.
* Val contacted Highworth URC and put them in touch with AIUK to find a speaker, this took so long to happen that it was too late for pre-Christmas meeting.
* Quiz night was successful and made £884.33 profit, to be split between AI and Action Aid.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* The balance at 1st Jan 1313.81 (once all cheques cleared)
* Expenditure in last month has been costs for quiz, half the profits to Action Aid, post for address labels and post for greetings cards
* Income has only been for address labels.
* Book shelf has raised £512 since Val took over in May.

**Day of Meeting**

It has been proposed that we change the day of the meeting as some members cannot make Monday (Chris, Jenny) and for others Monday is not the best day.

Having consulted with all regular group members the view was the Wednesday is the best night, but the Meeting House is not available on a Wednesday. Marina kindly offered her house as an alternative venue for the monthly meetings, except for Greeting Card writing and speakers when we would need to book a venue.

Val agreed to consult with the rest of the group by email and propose the following options:

* Option 1 – continue to meet on a Monday at the Friends Meeting House
* Option 2 – move our regular monthly meetings to a Wednesday at Marina’s house and book venues for specific events as required.

Final decision to be made at the AGM at Feb meeting.

**February Meeting – Speaker Trevor Trueman**

We have a speaker booked for Feb meeting – Trevor Trueman on human rights in Ethiopia. Concern has been raised on how many people we will get to attend. Bee’s email to find who could come has only come up with 4 definites (Val, Jean, Marina and Virginia). Ros said she also hoped to come.

We agreed, that as long as Trevor is willing to come knowing numbers may be low, we will continue with the meeting and put more effort into publicity.

Val to ask Bee to confirm with Trevor his willingness to come still.

Assuming he is still coming, Val to distribute the poster to all and we will carry out the following:

* Val to get in Standard
* Val to add to website
* Val to take posters to Town Council for their notice boards and to add to their what’s on website
* Val to contact the other local groups (Ros can provide contacts if needed)
* Val to ask her contact at the college to put up a poster
* Mike and Lyndsey to put posters up around town
* Marina to contact Gloucester Radio
* All to put posters up anywhere else they can
* Everyone to try and bring someone with them!

**Future of Group**

We discussed the capacity of the group to continue given the low numbers and lack of people able to take on the committee roles.

Bee is unable to attend meeting dues to her new job in Oxford.

Marina said she was willing to be the secretary (the main AI UK contact).

Chris is willing to keep on as treasurer.

Val is willing to stay as chair, as long as there is a secretary, and to update website. Val also offered to do the minutes.

We will assess the success of the Feb meeting with our increased publicity effort to decide if we book further speakers this year.

We discussed making the meetings a bit more informal and friendly – with people bringing actions for all to share in.

It was agreed we should formalise these changes at the AGM in February.

**Monthly Mailing**

There was no January monthly mailing.

**Actions**

Ros brought a letter for all to sign in support of women in the indigenous Canadian communities.

**Events**

AI AGM 12-13th April – Edinburgh

Monday 3rd February – Trevor Trueman, Human Rights in Ethiopia (TBC) and group AGM

**AOB**

The group have received a donation in memory of Valerie Lammers as past member known to some present.

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**