



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

April 2017 Newsletter



Our thanks to Ethna Cooke of Swanley for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

<i>Tuesday 11 April</i>	<i>Campaign Meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday 9 May</i>	<i>Campaign Meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday 12 June</i>	<i>Speaker To be Confirmed</i>

China Prisoner Action File: Liu Xiaobo

Since September 2013 we have been assigned the case of Dr Liu Xiaobo, human rights defender and winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. He was first arrested in 2006 and convicted in 2009 for 'inciting subversion' by calling for political reform. He is serving an eleven year sentence with a further two years' deprivation of rights. We reviewed our continued participation in the case given the lack of information and progress. However, we have heard recently that his health is reasonable in the circumstances, and his wife, poet Liu Xia, who has been held under house arrest, can occasionally telephone friends although she suffers from depression; she has also been able to thank everyone in Amnesty for their support. There was overwhelming agreement to continue working on the case.



Our jazz night with the Nick Beston Quartet was another splendid event with 134 attending – considerably lower than last year's record of 230. Ticket sales raised £1,546.00, and we took £90.33 in food donations and £71.20 in other donations. Overall the event

raised £921.53 NETT. Our grateful thanks go to all those who helped out on the night and especially to Wendy for organising the refreshments, and to David for putting the event together.

Monthly Action: – Lawyer Facing Life Imprisonment

An outspoken defender of human rights for over 30 years, lawyer Eren Keskin has been subjected to death threats, physical attacks and sustained judicial harassment. She has been brought before the courts more than a hundred times, and convicted on numerous occasions, largely because of her work defending Kurdish rights. In 1995 she served six months in prison for referring to 'Kurdistan' in an article. Eren's most recent conviction is for 'denigrating the Turkish nation'. Since the attempted coup and subsequent crackdown she is accused of offences linked to her work with a Kurdish newspaper Özgür Gündem, and if convicted, could receive a life sentence. We wrote to the Turkish authorities calling for her immediate and unconditional release.



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£665.39
Income	£1,933.53
Expenditure	£974.97
Balance at 14th March	£1,623.95
CHANGE	£958.56

Income included Amnesty Jazz receipts and private donations of £130. Expenditure included £882.00 in concert related expenses. **It was agreed** a donation of £1,050 + £72 affiliation fee would be sent to Amnesty.

Postage charges are due to be increased from 27 March 2017 as below:

Standard Inland (up to 100g)	1 st class 65p	2 nd class 56p
Large Letter (up to 100g)	1 st class 98p	2 nd class 76p
International all Zones (up to 10g)	£1.17	
International (up to 20g)	Europe £1.17	ROW £1.40



Save the Date!

Bromley Little Theatre Charity Premiere

"Nell Gwynne"

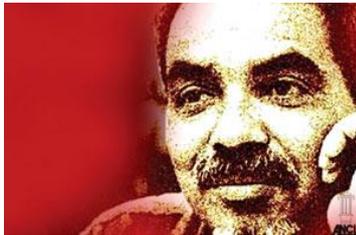
By Jessica Swale

On Thursday 6th July 2017 at 7.45pm.

Tickets £12 from David Howkins 01689 823793

London 1660 and a young Nell Gwynne is causing a stir amongst theatregoers. The play charts the rise of this unlikely heroine to become Britain's most celebrated actress.

Monthly Letter: Sri Lanka



This month's action relates to a disappeared journalist, who has not been seen since January 2010. He appears to have been targeted for peacefully expressing his right to Freedom of Expression in favouring an opposition candidate. Journalists exist in fear of arbitrary arrest, torture and disappearance in Sri Lanka, whilst others have been extra-judicially killed. Please sign, address and post the attached letter calling for his disappearance to be fully investigated and to bring the perpetrators to justice. This will cost £1.17 to post.

AMNESTY SOCIAL

**"Café Medi, 332 Orpington High Street
Thursday 27th April at 7.30pm**

To reserve a place(s) please contact Neville by 8th April.



*Don't forget to find us on Facebook; we now have **28 members** who have found us on Facebook; if you use and enjoy social media why not join us for news updates and campaign information. You can also find us online (details below).*

Religious Persecution in China: Falun Gong

Controls over religion in China have increased hugely since 2012; at least 100 million people belong to religious groups facing 'high' or 'very high' levels of persecution including Protestant Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims and Falun Gong. We wrote to the Chinese authorities on behalf of **Chen Huixia**, who has been persecuted for peacefully practicing Falun Gong to heal her chronic illness. The practice is banned in China as a threat to social and political stability, with practitioners subjected to torture and ill treatment. The conviction rate of Falun Gong is over 99%!



Meetings are held in the Wesley Room, Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington commencing at 7.30pm. **E-mail** amnestybromley@gmail.com **website:** www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley

Neville White (Chairman) 01689 896368
Neville.white@waitrose.com

Vivien Glanz (Secretary)
vivienglanz@hotmail.com