**Chester and Wrexham Amnesty International Group meeting**

**Held on Monday March 20th, Watergate Inn, Chester**

**Present:** Helen, Michael, Carol, Caroline, Michelle, Mark, Wendy, Karen-Marie, Vera, Paul, Alan, Peter, Mike

**Apologies:** Abi, Alex

**Palestine**

This evenings meeting was a change from its usual format as Beth Gibbons from Friends of Palestine attended to give a talk an excellent on the human rights situation in Palestine.  This was based on her visit to Palestine with the Amos Trust.  An informative discussion followed. Mike has written a letter of thanks to Beth Gibbons on the groups behalf.

**Minutes and Matters Arising**

* The Watergate Inn has been sold to Chester Racecourse and it was agreed with the landlord (Frank) that our future meetings would be at an alternative venue.  Mike has thanked Frank for his hospitality over recent years and has wished him all the best for his retirement.  Alan will make enquiries with the Custom House in Watergate Street regarding our future meetings.
* Mike has spoken to Colin Taylor (Amnesty NW Media Support) who can support the group on social media and press matters.  Colin lives in Dumfries so a visit to one of our meetings is not straightforward.  There is an Amnesty media training day on Saturday 13th May in Preston which Michelle is interested in.  Michelle has agreed to look at social media but it would be good if someone else could be the contact with the press (with support from Colin who is happy to circulate stories or even help in writing them).  Media matters will be on the agenda for April's meeting.
* Carol and Peter attended a meeting on 1st March regarding refugees coming to Cheshire West. The meeting was chaired by CWACC and involved representatives from interested organisations. Carol and Peter will feed back to the group at the April meeting.  Prior to the meeting contact was made with World Development Forum and Share who were both interested in attending the meeting.
* Michelle will be meeting with Sam Rex-Edwards from TCC Wrexham on 5th May to discuss current developments within the Welsh Refugee Coalition who are campaigning for a Welsh Nation of Sanctuary.

**Events and Diary Dates**

* Karen-Mari and Mike attended the Amnesty International UK AGM, Nottingham – 8th-9th April.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/national-conference-and-agm-2017>

* Morrisons bag pack was cancelled for 25th March as it clashed with the Comic Relief weekend.  Peter is seeking confirmation for the alternative date of Saturday 6th May – time to TBC.
* Alan is making enquiries with Journeymen Theatre regarding bringing their performance of 'The Bundle' to Chester later this year.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on TUESDAY 18th, April – 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Many thanks to Alan and Wendy for hosting the meeting - 28, Eaton Road, Chester, Handbridge, CH4 7N.