

# Amnesty raises funds and awareness in refugee week

Words and photos by Dave Barry

ABOUT £220 was raised at a concert organised by the Scarborough branch of Amnesty International during national refugee week, 19-25 June.

The show, enjoyed by about 40 people, featured contrasting but complementary performances by two duos. It was at the Cask.

Bridget Cousins and Phil Bennett, from Scarborough, played English and Irish folk instrumentals and songs on a small Celtic harp and viola made by her dad, who is 91, and guitar.

Rachel Anderson, endowed with a rich soprano voice, sang *All That Jazz*, *Moon River*, *Java Jive*, *Love Letters*, *Under my Skin*, etc, accompanied by Clive Wass on keyboards. The couple are from Pickering.

Brian Mancini stepped in at short notice to operate the sound desk.

\*The next day, at noon, members of Amnesty branches all over the country posed for photos while holding posters welcoming refugees to the UK.

The Scarborough photo was taken near the putting green on the Esplanade.



L-R: performers Clive Wass, Bridget Cousins, Rachel Anderson and Phil Bennett are pictured with Rod Heath of Amnesty (to order photos ring 353597)



Amnesty members take part in the synchronised photo shoot during refugee week

"The theme of refugee week is Our Shared Future and the picture was part of a synchronised effort across the country", explained branch secretary Rod Heath.

"As part of its 'I welcome refugees' campaign launched last year, Amnesty is encouraging communities to work together to create a more welcoming environment for people fleeing conflict and persecution, while calling on the government to open up more safe and legal routes for refugees to reach safety in the UK".

\* Harwood Dale will be the picturesque setting for the branch's annual walk, on Friday 14 July, at 6pm.

It will be hosted by branch member Jake Empsom at his home, where the circular walk will start and finish.

It won't be too strenuous; there may be a long one and a short one, depending on demand. Afterwards, there will be a picnic for everybody so take some dishes to share - and something to drink.

The venue is Thirley Cotes Cottage on Waite Lane and the post code is YO13 0DR.

■ For details about the branch, ring Mr Heath on 377108 or email [amnestyne@gmail.com](mailto:amnestyne@gmail.com).