

Dates for your diary

Tue: 19/6/18 Kate Allen (Director, UK Amnesty) at Chichester Cathedral

LOCAL EVENTS

I'm afraid we will NOT be having either the Emsworth book sale or the Barnham AmnesTEA fundraising this year. We made, however, thanks to the great efforts of JILLI WEBBER and her musicians and 22 collectors in the Chichester Street Collection, the incredible amount of £653.85 for Amnesty – well done all round!

On **Tuesday 19/6** we shall be hearing from KATE ALLEN, Amnesty UK's Director, on **STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**. This will be in Chichester Cathedral itself, starting at 6.30 pm, followed by a question-and-answer session to 7.45 pm. FREE with a retiring collection. We are hoping to attract as many people as possible as well as all of you, so please spread the news to anyone you know.

OTHER EVENTS

Friday 11/05/2018. From the **Bishop Luffa Amnesty Group**: "We are an Amnesty International youth group, working at Bishop Luffa school to help contribute towards all the amazing work done by Amnesty International all around the world.

We are hosting a charity Jumble sale in our school Conference Room, at Bishop Luffa School, Chichester, PO19 3HP, on **Friday** 11th May starting at 2.30pm and lasting until around 4pm: even if you just come for 10 minutes any support would be greatly appreciated. We will be selling everything from clothes and shoes, to toys, books and DVDs: there will also be a raffle with great prizes and with kind donations from local businesses such as Champneys Spa, The Body Shop and Buzby and Blue salon. There will also be plenty of refreshments available and any produce donations would be greatly appreciated.

This event is sadly not open to the general public: however, we are more than able to accommodate any Amnesty International members; we invite all members to come along, you will be greeted at reception and we look forward to showing you to the event. Please do just come along and see if you can find any bargains!

If you would like to attend, please let Kath Shakespeare know (kathshakespeare@hotmail.com or 01243 552131) so she can inform us of any names in advance: thank you very much and we hope to see you there!"

Saturday 02/06/2018. 'In Search of Sanctuary' will be an evening of music and poetry in aid of two local charities: **Sanctuary in Chichester** and **Friends without Borders**. This will be on Saturday 2nd June at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre at St Paul's Church, Chichester, PO19 FT6. Many people today are forced to flee to a place of safety and ideas related to this theme will be explored.

The concert has an exciting line up of musicians and singers with a wide range of music, promising something for everybody. This will include classical, folk, pop and musical theatre. It will feature music and song with piano, violin, guitar, cello and clarinet. Musical items will be interspersed with poetry.

Learn more about the work of these two very important charities, that are committed to helping refugees and asylum seekers, and also enjoy tea, coffee and light refreshments during the interval. Admission is free and no ticket or prebooking is required. All donations will be given to Sanctuary in Chichester and Friends without Borders.

An evening not to be missed!

The General Data Protection Regulation and your Amnesty Group

I wanted to let you know that, because of a new data privacy law that is being introduced in the UK in May 2018, your local Amnesty group will be contacting you to ensure that you are happy with the way we collect and use your personal information.

Background to these changes

In May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force in the UK, replacing the Data Protection Act (1998). This will strengthen the rights of individuals, giving people more power over how organisations use their data. The law requires organisations to demonstrate that they are complying and be more transparent about how they use personal data.

Personal data is information held electronically or in manual records which identifies a living person. It includes: Name; Address; Date of Birth; Contact details; Bank Account details; Interests; Photographs.

As a member of the Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group, you will have supplied personal data to the Group Committee members when you joined the Group.

Organisations that collect, store and use personal information have to ensure that they are collecting and processing personal data appropriately. I am confident that we have done so in the past and will continue to do so in future, but there are some changes we need to make and this is a good opportunity for us to review our storage of your data, and how we collect and store data in future.

Your Group Committee will be doing the following:

- Revising our application form. We will create a Privacy Notice linked to the application form, so it is clear how any personal information is used. This will be held on our Group website.
- Document what data we handle, how it is protected and when it will be disposed of; and set up a plan in the event of a data breach or 'near miss'.
- Checking with you as a member of the group that we hold the correct information about you and, at the same time, check that you are happy to receive direct marketing (such as information about campaigns, events and fundraising activities) by email. This will be sent to you soon.
- Revising the way we send out email communications in future. These will need to include an 'unsubscribe' option so that you can opt out at any point; and, when sending an email with everyone in the 'bcc', explaining in the body text who the email has gone to.
- If you receive a posted newsletter, you can also 'unsubscribe' at any time.

Kath Shakespeare

Chair, Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group

Amnesty Action: campaigns & letter-writing

Action: INDIA: Human rights defender threatened at her home

Background to this action:

Pavitri Manjhi, the Adivasi Sarpanch (elected head) of the Bhengari village council in Chhattisgarh, has faced continued threats, harassment and intimidation in relation to her peaceful activism. Visited at her home by two men every evening from 3 to 5 April 2018, she has been told to withdraw all formal complaints filed by Adivasi villagers against two private companies who allegedly defrauded members of the community of their land.

Pavitri Manjhi has been on the frontline of protesting against two private companies who allegedly defrauded indigenous Adivasis of their land, when developing a thermal power plant from 2009 to 2011, and a biomass power plant in 2004 and 2007.

Pavitri Manjhi says her own family, like other villagers, were coerced into selling their land to agents acting on behalf of the companies, and that their consent was neither free nor informed.

Pavitri Manjhi has faced threats, intimidation and harassment by men she says were acting on behalf of the private thermal company since 2015. In addition, her son is facing criminal charges for what is believed to be a fabricated case initiated to deter her from continuing her campaign. Currently on bail, the case against him has been pending since 2015.

Pavitri Manjhi and other activists set up the *Adivasi Dalit Mazdoor Kis an Sangharsh* in 2017, a community group that supports individuals to file formal complaints in line with the provisions of India's Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act – a special law to protect Dalit and Adivasi rights that criminalizes the dispossession of Adivasi land without their consent. In June 2017, scores of Adivasi villagers filed complaints to the state police alleging unlawful dispossession of their land. However, the police have refused to register First Information Reports (the first step of a criminal investigation).

What you can do

Please write immediately in English or your own language, urging authorities to:

- Provide adequate security to Pavitri Manjhi and other Adivasi villagers from harassment and intimidation, in consultation with them;
- Investigate any complaints of harassment, threats and intimidation of Adivasi villagers, and bring those responsible to justice in fair trials;
- Investigate the complaints of unlawful dispossession of land and bring those responsible to justice in fair trials.

Write to:

Minister of Tribal Affairs: Shri Jual Oram, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi India - 110001

Salutation: Dear Minister

Director General of Police: Shri AN Upadhyay, Police Headquarters, Raipur Chhattisgarh, India - 492001

Email: ps.dgp-cg@gov.in Salutation: Dear Sir

Copy to:

National Human Rights Commission Block - C, GPO Complex, INA New Delhi, India - 110023

Email: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

HIS EXCELLENCY MR YASHVARDHAN KUMAR SINHA, Office of the High Commissioner for India, India House Aldwych WC2B 4NA, Email: info.london@hclondon.in or www.hcilondon.in Salutation: Your Excellency

See www.amnesty.org.uk/bognor-chichesterand-district/about-0 for further information about the group