

Newsletter: May 2019

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Dates for your diary	Sat 20/7 PUMBLE [= [Pub raMBLE], Centurion Way, Chichester 19/10/2019 Arias and Songs for Amnesty: The Regis School of Music, Bognor Regis
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Dear writers,

Many thanks to JILLI WEBBER and all who helped her in the CHICHESTER STREET COLLECTION. The collection, with donations, came to £412.69. Well done, all.

Local events

Saturday 20/07/19 is our social event, the PUMBLE along Centurion Way to West Dean. Please contact Peter James (01243) 533745

19/10/2019 Arias and Songs for Amnesty: 19:30, The Regis School of Music, Bognor. This is an advanced notice that on Saturday 19th October Rebecca Grove (Soprano), Stephanie Peat (Mezzo Soprano) and Chris Coote (accompanist) will be performing a concert in aid of Amnesty International. The concert will include Opera, German Lieder, French and English Song. Admission is free with a retiring collection and all donations to Amnesty.

Other events

13/05/2019 KNIT FOR NAZ. Cardiff Group are hosting an evening of crafting for NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE, the woman held hostage by the Iranian government. Help knit a chain symbolising her imprisonment - you can do it by post.

amnesty.cardiff@btinternet.com

I have details of the resolutions passed and rejected at this year's UK Amnesty AGM in Nottingham, and of our departing UK Chair's final update on the problems of the International Secretariat. Contact me on (01243) 823016

07/06/2019 11:00 - 15: 00 Chichester Cathedral Green. Volunteer Fair to mark Volunteers Week (1-7 June), in partnership with Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester. For more information: <https://www.vaac.org.uk/events-training/local-networking>

Festival of Chichester 15/06/2019 - 14/07/2019. The Festival of Chichester is always an excellent mix of events, with something for everyone. This year, there are some interesting events with a human rights theme: you can find out more about and book these events, and find out other events of interest, at <https://festivalofchichester.co.uk/spoken-word/>

- **24/06/2019, 19:00 A C Grayling: the Roots and Fruits of Humanism.** Hosted by Chichester Humanists and exploring the increase of interest in humanism, led by philosopher, author and campaigner Prof A C Grayling.
- **26/06/2019 11:00 and 10/07/2019 11:00 A Woman's place is....in the Cathedral!** Explore works designed by and/or executed by women in the Cathedral

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Newsletter: May 2019

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- **03/07/2019 19:00** *Modern slavery at sea.* UN Association-UK, Chichester Branch host a discussion on modern slavery and trafficking at sea, led by barrister Simon O'Toole.
- **06/07/2019 17:30** *Oasis of Peace: the village of hope.* Hosted by the Chichester Quakers, the story of a unique community of Jewish and Palestinian-Arab Israeli citizens.
- **11/07/2019, 18:00** *Mandela: life in prison.* Hosted by Talks at Six, Colin Chambers, Robben Island chaplain, tells of the regime and conditions under which Mandela lived for 18 years.

REFUGEE WEEK: PORTSMOUTH

17/06/2019: All-day vigil at Portsmouth Cathedral with Michael Wooley (Friends Without Borders) and Roger Peak (Sanctuary in Chichester) Open to all.

19/06/2019 Launch of Portsmouth Sanctuary City with the High Sheriff and Lord Mayor:

<https://portsmouth.cityofsanctuary.org>

19/06/2019, 18:00, University of Portsmouth. *At the end of the rainbow: where next for the queer refugee?* Talk organised as part of the celebration of Portsmouth becoming a City of Sanctuary and the University's work towards becoming a University of Sanctuary, and is supported by CARA (Council for At Risk Academics); details and booking via <http://www2.port.ac.uk/events/>

PORTSMOUTH PRIDE day will be Saturday 22/06/2019.

26/06/2019, 19:30 - 21:30, Human Rights Centre, Amnesty, London. Aminatou Haidar is a Saharawi human rights activist. Often called the "Saharawi Gandhi" for her non-violent protests, has won several international human rights awards for her work. There will be an introduction giving background and the legal and political situation regarding Western Sahara by a committee member from the Western Sahara Campaign and then Aminatou will talk about her personal experiences and hopes for the future. This will be followed by a question and answer session. Please let me know if you would like to go and we will forward your details to the organiser.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

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Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Action: Stand with Saudi Women's Human Rights Defenders

15 May 2019 will mark one year since the first wave of arrests targeting prominent Saudi women's rights activists, including Eman al-Nafjan, Aziza al-Yosuef and Loujain al-Hathloul. Since then, most of these activists remain in detention, having been subjected to torture, sexual harassment and ill-treatment, and are now facing trial on charges relating to their activism.

We need to see these women immediately and unconditionally released.

Please email the Saudi Arabia Embassy, here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/free-saudi-women-who-fought-right-drive>

Egypt: Update to the January 2019 Newsletter.

The Aser Mohamed verdict date has been adjourned until 22nd June. It is important that we keep campaigning on his case during the intervening period. For more information about the case:



<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/egypt-children-face-shocking-violations-including-torture-and-enforced-disappearance>

Please write on his behalf to Ministry of Interior and The President as a matter of urgency, using the template below, to :

- Minister of the Interior, Magdy Abdel Ghaffer, Fifth Settlement, New Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. (Greeting : Your Excellency)
- President, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Office of the President, Al Ittihadia Palace, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt (Greeting : Your Excellency)

Your Excellency

Re : Case of Aser Mohamed

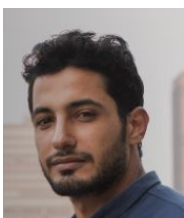
I urge you to release Aser Mohamed immediately. On 12 January 2016 NSA officers detained Aser, who was 14 years old at the time, for 34 days. He was tortured into 'confessing' the crimes with which he is charged. Aser is facing trial as a result of these confessions extracted under torture and faces 15 years in prison.

As a signatory party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Egypt has an obligation to ensure all of its children are free from torture. This right is also enshrined in the Egyptian constitution under Article 80.

I strongly implore the authorities to drop the charges against Aser and to release him unconditionally.

Yours respectfully

Egypt: Update to the March 2019 Newsletter. Good news! Arbitrarily detained Egyptian activist released



On 26/03/2019, Egyptian activist Islam Khalil was released on probation after more than a year in arbitrary detention. A judge in the terrorism circuit of the Cairo Criminal Court had ordered his release on 19/02/2019. Instead of releasing Islam, the authorities held him incommunicado since 25/02/2019, refusing to inform his family of his whereabouts.

Despite his release, Islam is still facing bogus charges and must spend two hours at a police station twice a week, as per his probation terms.

Thank you for writing on behalf of Islam Khalil.

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