



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
Bromley & Orpington Group
Christmas & New Year
Newsletter 2018-19



COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 8th January

Tuesday 12th February

Tuesday 12th March

Campaign Meeting

Speaker: Farshid Talaghani – Amnesty Group’s officer

23rd Bromley & Orpington Group AGM

With our good wishes to Patsy & John Paine as they prepare to take their leave of us!

We raised £4,372 for Amnesty in 2018 – Thank you!

The Nick Beston Quartet

With special guest vocalist

Sue Rivers

**Present a concert of popular jazz standards in aid of
Amnesty International Bromley & Orpington Group**

Friday 1st February 2019 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington

Tickets: £12 in advance; £13 on the door. Discount under 16s

From David Howkins 01689 823793 or davidhowkins@virginmedia.com

Tickets on sale now and we welcome any offers of help on the night!



Chair’s Letter

Dear Amnesty Supporter

*As another campaigning year draws to a close we can look back at 2018 with a good deal of pride and satisfaction at the things we have achieved. First, we raised and donated a magnificent **£4,372** to Amnesty against a budget of £3,700. This came about as a result of a hugely successful Amnesty Jazz Concert in February, a near sell-out*

Bromley Little Theatre Charity Preview of Charles III in October (our 20th BLT production since 1994), Margaret’s splendid Garden Open Day in July, and our first ever Quiz Night in June. We also hosted a public meeting with Bob Neill MP in October, and welcomed five speakers over the course of the year to our monthly meetings in Orpington. We signed campaign letters and petitions at every meeting, and at our traditional Christmas meeting in December, we sent around 50 cards as part of the ‘Write for Rights’ campaign. As we enter our 58th continuous year as a local Amnesty Group – one of the oldest in the UK – we see all too clearly the immense challenges around the world in protecting human rights. Your local Group needs you to continue this vital work. We thank you for your support in 2018, and send our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

AMNESTY SOCIAL: Save the Date!

"Café Medi"

332 Orpington High Street

Thursday 7th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Please reserve your place(s) with Neville

Write for Rights: Send a Message of Hope!

Our traditional Christmas meeting includes sending a 'Message of Hope'. We remember those suffering human rights abuses by writing a simple greetings message in support and solidarity. We collectively wrote 50 cards from this year's campaign and we ask you take a moment also to send a message of hope this Christmas season.

'In the last two days I received two boxes packed with cards and letters from Amnesty supporters. The last one weighed about 20 kilos. It was lovely...amazing. They tell me this "Azza you are not alone, a lot of people think about you and stand with you" Azza Soliman, Human Rights Lawyer, Egypt, currently facing imprisonment for defending human rights activists.

In 2017 Amnesty's "Write for Rights" Campaign led to over 5.5 million actions being sent from 208 countries. More than 430,000 people wrote to protect Chinese activist Ni Yulan from assaults, harassment and violence; over 500,000 people echoed Shackelia Jackson's call for protection of human rights defenders pursuing justice for their relatives murdered by the Jamaican police. Almost 875,000 people demanded the release of Taner Kiliç and 10 other human rights defenders in Turkey – all are now free. This year the 12 cases have one thing in common: they are all women. Go to www.amnesty.org.uk/write to find out about this year's cases to take action!

We bade a fond and sad farewell to Patsy and John Paine as they pack their knap-sacks and prepare for an imminent move to Buckinghamshire. Patsy has been our longest serving regular member joining the Group 33 years ago and has given dedicated and unfailing support for the cause of human rights throughout that time. We offer our very best wishes to Patsy and John. We shall miss them both greatly!

"Season's Greetings for a very Happy and Peaceful New Year to all our supporters"

Present on 11th December: Vivien Glanz; Neville White; Vivienne Andrews; Patsy & John Paine; Gladys Edmonds; Wendy Simmons; Waltraut Gilchrist; Ted Burke; Peter Martin. **Apologies:** David Howkins; Margaret Coppard; Patrick and Carolyn Nield; Rindi Baaker. .

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

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Find us on
Facebook

Don't forget to find us on Facebook; we now have 34 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.