



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
Bromley & Orpington Group
Christmas & New Year
Newsletter 2019-20



COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 14th January

Campaign Meeting

Tuesday 11th February

Campaign Meeting

Tuesday 10th March

24rd Bromley & Orpington Group AGM

Our thanks to Dr Vivienne Andrews of Bickley for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

We raised £2,072 for Amnesty in 2019 – 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 21st February 2020 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



Chair's Letter

Dear Amnesty Supporter

It doesn't seem five minutes since I wrote the last letter heralding the end of 2018. As another campaigning year draws to a close we can look back at 2019 as a 'mixed year'. Once again we held two major fundraising events – the Amnesty Jazz concert in February and no less than our 21st Bromley Little Theatre charity preview "We Happy Few" which took place on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. The play raised a little over £1,000 which together with concert receipts meant we donated £2,072 in 2019 – a very respectable total, but a good deal less than in 2018. We continued to campaign and send regular appeals, and towards the end of the year took on a new Argentinian Prisoner Action File. We welcomed several speakers to meetings, but falling numbers attending meetings has meant our suspending the speaker programme for the time being. We remain active members of various Amnesty groups – North Africa, Latin America and the Children's Network; some of these are more active than others! In the autumn the Group took a hard look at its ability to carry on when local groups in our area have by and large closed owing to new ways of campaigning for human rights – digitally and online rather than with quill and ink. With great positivity the Group asserted its desire to continue to come together each month as a physical act of supporting the victims of human rights, however, as we begin 2020 you may notice some changes in the way we communicate our activities to supporters. After 34 years with the

Group, and an improbable 25 as Chair, I am bowing out in March, when others will lead the Group forward in its next phase. Our Group was founded in 1962, and in all that time it has only had two Chairs so this is quite a milestone! It goes without saying that it has been an enormous pleasure to lead our Group for so long. Happy Christmas! Neville

AMNESTY SOCIAL

"Café Medi"

332 Orpington High Street

Thursday 30th January 2020 at 7.30pm

Please reserve your place(s) with Neville

Write for Rights: Send a Message of Hope!

As tradition dictates, we dedicated our Christmas meeting to 'sending a message of hope by supporting Amnesty's annual 'Write for Rights' campaign. In 2018 over 182,000 ordinary people took action sending over 6 million cards and messages. We know the difference these messages make, in providing a means to go on hoping – 'I am wholeheartedly grateful to Amnesty International...who have showered me with compassion and kindness, and spared no effort in supporting me', so wrote Atena Daemi who was jailed in 2016 for criticising the Iranian use of capital punishment, and for taking part in a peaceful protest in support of an executed woman – **over 700,000 people showed their solidarity with Atena.**

This year the 10 featured cases focus on young people, such as 17 year old **Emil Ostrovko** who has been given a 10 year prison sentence for 'illicit drug trafficking' without a shred of evidence to support the conviction. Emil is one of over 15,000 children currently imprisoned in Belarus. We also supported **Yiliyasijiang Rehehan** the subject of a forced disappearance in China. As a Uyghur he is one of an estimated one million native Muslims who have been persecuted in Xinjiang Province. Please take a moment over this festive period to send a Message of Hope – booklets containing the 10 cases and extra information can be downloaded at www.amnesty.org.uk

"I want to thank Amnesty globally. The support they gave us is amazing and it makes a lot of difference. The thousands of letters we have received shows that this struggle is not just about us, that we are not alone" Nonhle Mbuthuma, community activist South Africa



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

Present on 10th December: Neville White; Vivien Glanz; Vivienne Andrews; Wendy Simmons; Waltraut Gilchrist; Ted Burke; Patrick and Carolyn Nield; Peter Martin. **Apologies:** David Howkins; Margaret Coppard; Gladys Edmonds.

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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