



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

April 2020 Newsletter



COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 14 April
Tuesday 12 May
Tuesday 9 June

Campaign Meeting
Campaign Meeting
Campaign Meeting

Our thanks to Ann Elliott of Bromley, for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

Save the Date

Bromley Little Theatre Charity Preview

"Breaking the Code"

By Hugh Whitmore

The story of Alan Turing who broke the Second World War Enigma Code

Thursday 2 July 7.45pm - More details soon!

Amnesty Jazz

Our annual Amnesty Jazz concert with the Nick Beston Quartet has become a regular fixture in the Amnesty calendar, and one, which many look forward to. This year's concert on 20th February was among the best and most successful, not least, as we had a surprise act in the person of Nick's 13 year old son Alfie, who is already a superb saxophonist. This year we marked 10 years of live music making for Amnesty with 161 coming along, including 53 on the door (145 last year). Before costs, the concert raised an amazing £2,194.80. Over the course of the 10 years, Amnesty Jazz has raised a magnificent **£19,473.40** (gross); an average of just under £2,000 per concert. We would like to thank, as ever, Nick, the band, Sue Rivers and of course, David for helping to organise and arrange such a wonderful evening.

Bromley & Orpington 24th AGM

Included with this mailing is our 24th Annual General Meeting Report. At the AGM we elected a new Chair (Patrick Nield) as well as Secretary and Treasurer; approved the appointment of a new Independent Examiner (Mark Palmer); approved a vote of thanks for our outgoing Independent Examiner (Karl Ahlborn); approved the Budget for 2020; reviewed the Treasurer's report for 2019 and amended the Group Constitution.

Group Constitution

A slight amendment was made to the Group Constitution; a copy has been placed on the website.

Good News: Human Rights Defender Released

On February 14th **Joaquin Elo Ayeto** was released from prison in Equatorial Guinea, where he had been held for a year. After his release Joaquin shared the following message with Amnesty *"I have been told of the work that you have done for me and I want to thank the titanic effort by Amnesty International that has resulted in my release. I want to thank all the work that has been done to achieve my release"*. Joaquin had been arrested in February last year accused of having incriminating information about a plot to kill the President, and had been convicted of defamation and making threats against the President's life. Amnesty campaigned for Joaquin as a Prisoner of Conscience who had been convicted for his human rights work and for exercising his

right to freedom of expression. Joaquin has committed to continue his work defending the voiceless in Equatorial Guinea where human rights are under acute pressure. This case is yet another testament of the value of Amnesty members tirelessly campaigning on behalf of named individuals.

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£537.02
Income	£1,414.80
Expenditure	£235.50
Balance at 10 th March	£1,716.32
CHANGE	£1,179.30

Income included receipts from Amnesty Jazz of £1,304.80 and donations of £110.00. Expenditure in the main was room hire for six months (Oct-Mar) newsletter postage and our Group registration fee for 2020 of £72. It was agreed that a donation of £1,200 be sent to Amnesty, bringing our total donations for the year to date to £1,272.00.

AI Case File: Argentina

There has been no new update on our Argentinian case file, **Jorge Gonzalez Nieva**, however, we sent Jorge a message of solidarity as he awaits the outcome of his appeal against his conviction. We sent good wishes and a message of support saying we were working hard to achieve justice for him.

Solidarity with the Women of Iran

Human rights have deteriorated markedly in Iran with punishments getting harsher. In July last year three women were sentenced to 55 years in prison combined for 'inciting prostitution'; their crime was to be seen in public without a veil and for handing out flowers to female passengers on a train in Tehran. The brutality of the sentence was in flagrant breach of the women's right to freedom of expression. In February 2020, we learnt that on appeal the sentence for two of the women had been reduced to nine years and seven months. The appeal trial was a sham, with the women being denied legal representation and their being verbally abused by the judge. This is just the most recent case that has seen a worrying escalation in crackdowns against women and human rights defenders in Iran. If you have access, please sign the online petition at www.amnesty.org.uk

Protecting Children's Rights

*Children are the invisible victims of human rights abuses, but children have their own unique set of rights granted them under international law through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force just over 30 years ago in November 1989. **Every country has ratified the Convention except one – the United States.** The Convention asserts that children are not passive victims, but people with equal dignity, entitled to respect and acknowledging they are entitled to special care and protection. We are proud to be part of Amnesty's unique Children's Network campaigning on behalf of child victims everywhere.*



Royal Mail

Royal Mail Postage Rates: UK Postage goes up on 23rd March

Overseas – a 10g overseas letter (all destinations) will be **£1.42**, whilst letter post up to 20g will be **£1.42** for Europe and **£1.63** for the rest of the world. **UK inland** will be **76p** First Class and **65p** Second Class. Amnesty hosts a number of online petitions and SMS actions as an alternative to incurring postage. More information at www.amnesty.org.uk

Present on 10th March: Neville White; David Howkins; Peter Martin; Waltraut Gilchrist; Rindy Baaker; Patrick and Carolyn Nield; Vivienne Andrews; Wendy Simmons; Ted Burke; Ann Garrett and Mark Palmer. **Apologies:** Vivien Glanz.

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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