Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 9th June 2021

1. Present: Margaret George, Karen Cooper, Shirley Sweeney, Wailim Wong.
2. Apologies: Georgie Wong. Hetty Tye, Carole Liesse, Chris Ramsey.
3. Speaker: the first part of the meeting was a very interesting talk by Sophie from Queerkernow, who described the historical persecution in Cornwall of gay men, the prison sentences they got, and what the current situation is. The talk was followed by discussion.

Following the talk and discussion, we held a short business meeting

1. There were no minutes from last month’s meeting as we joined the Launceston group for a talk on Modern Slavery.
2. Correspondence: the Summer issue of the Amnesty members’ magazine had arrived. Margaret would pass the spare copy on to Georgie.
3. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £760.
4. AIUK AGM 19th June: this will be online. Individual members have a vote each, and our group has 10 votes. Margaret spoke about current problems at AIUK, particularly to response of the Board and the leadership to complaints of racism. Some Board members had very recently resigned. Members have a vote for new members of the board. Chris had passed on the news that there were emergency resolutions likely to come up at the AGM, calling for a more rigorous investigation into the complaints of racism. It was agreed that the group would hand our votes to Chris and rely on his knowledge and judgement to vote on behalf of the group.
5. Campaigns newsletters and actions on our campaign areas are being circulated by email.
6. Future events:

Bookstall and street collection in Truro on 31st July. We already have a few volunteers to help – Margaret, Shirley, Wailim Kirstie and Sho-Yin, Georgie (and since the meeting, Jenny Wellsteed and Jacquie (a new contact in Falmouth)). Margaret will create a rota and circulate it. We need books, and Robin has agreed that we can store them in his garage. Anyone wanting to take books there needs to contact him first.

Pride in Newquay, August Bank Holiday weekend. We have approached Launceston and Penzance groups to see if they would like to do a day but not heard yet. Chris will contact the Rainbow group at AIUK to see if they would like to hold the stall for the weekend, and we could then help when possible. We have not had the response yet. As it stands, we do not have enough people available to do more than one day, and the organisers are reluctant to allow stall-holders to do only one day.

1. Next meeting: the next online meeting will be on Wed 14th July at 6.30.