



DERBY AMNESTY

Amnesty International (AI) Derby and District Group Newsletter

<http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/derby-and-district>

February 2014

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Bumper Book Sale!



... to be held on Saturday, April 5th at the Guildhall large clubroom, 10.30am - 2.30pm. We need help on the day and books to sell. If you can't help, perhaps you could make a donation instead - all contributions will be gratefully received!!

Help on the day is needed between 9am and 3.30pm, especially at the beginning and end. We need urgently people with cars to bring books at the beginning (having collected them from Carol's on Friday night) and take them away (to various places) at the end. You can let me know via the form below or by phone – see below.

Books for donation should be in good condition and we do not want old textbooks, magazines or videos thank you! Donations can be brought to 3 Willson Ave, Littleover or be collected if you ring me on 01332 766536. Do leave a message if I'm not there.

The book sale brings in the most money of all our fund-raising activities at present. **The economic climate is still very difficult and we will have to make a huge effort to make it financially successful.** I hold a sale at college after the main sale. If anyone else would like to take some books afterwards to sell to groups they know, please let me know.

Anne Feist

See over for

. . . . March 19th **PUBLIC MEETING** at Derby University

Diary Dates . . . Diary Dates . . . Diary Dates .

Group Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House (FMH), St Helen's St. Derby All welcome.

Tue 11 Mar Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH

Wed 19 Mar .Public Meeting: The Human Rights Act: no repeal and why it matters. 7.00 for 7.30 Derby University (See over for details)

Sat 5 April Annual Book Sale. Guildhall Clubroom, Derby 10.30 – 2.30. Books and help will be needed! Phone D 766536

Tue 8 Apr Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH

400 Letters and Cards sent in Greetings Campaign!

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare for the Greetings Card Campaign and were present on the day. It was a great success. About 400 letters and cards were written and signed and we raised £425.81 in total from collection and goods sales. *Well done everyone!*

The donations covered the postage and other expenses and we stamped the envelopes during our December meeting. The Mayor of Derby, Margaret Beckett MP and Pauline Latham MP attended the event on the day. To help with publicity our young man from the Queen Elizabeth School distributed our leaflets in a Santa outfit outside the venue! *Steffi Hahn*



Reply Slip Amnesty International Book Sale 5th April (Help needed between 9.00 & 3.30)

I am able to help with the Book Sale and can help between and

I am unable to help at the Book Sale but enclose donation of (Cheques to Amnesty International)

Name.....Address.....

Email Phone

Please return to Anne Feist (or email or phone) by April 2nd. 3 Willson Ave, Littleover DE23 2BD. anne.feist@ntlworld.com



Wednesday March 19th, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Public Meeting: The Human Rights Act: no repeal and why it matters

Derby University School of Law and Criminology, DE22 1GB
(plentiful parking)

The Human Rights Act (HRA) is under threat from Euro-sceptic senior politicians and the press who peddle untruths about its effects. This meeting aims to redress the balance and show how the HRA is a force for good for ordinary UK people.

Among very many examples it is the HRA, under its requirement that public authorities work in compliance with the Convention rights, that is the legislative basis for compensating the massive violations of the Rights to Life, Freedom from Degradation and to Privacy and Family Life by Mid Staffs and other hospitals. And it is the House of Lords 2004 ruling under the HRA that if the Home Secretary abandoned his responsibility under the Immigration Act 1999 to pay minuscule allowances to asylum seekers they would be in degradation that has maintained at least their £5 / day allowance through more recent Immigration Acts.

A sparkling array of national and regional experts have agreed to join our Program:

7.00 Refreshments

7.30: Opening Talk on above title: Professor Philip Plowden, U. Derby Pro-vice Chancellor, Human Rights barrister and author of: *Advocacy and Human Rights* (2002)

8.00: Parallel discussions led by law teachers on the HRA &:

Asylum & Immigration: Vanessa Bettinson, De Montfort U;
Living on the Margins: Amal Ali, Sheffield U;

People with Dementia: Dr. Rosie Harding: Birmingham U;
Police compliance with the HRA: Kevin Bampton: Head, Derby U. Law School

Personal Data Privacy: Jamie Grace, Sheffield Hallam U;
Social Rights Dr. Alice Donald, Middlesex U;
Women: Dr. Sara Ward, Derby U;

8.40: Plenary Question Time:

Panel: Most of the expert group presenters

Chair: Professor Gerald Shamash, Derby University School of Law and Criminology; Senior Lawyer, UK Labour Party;
Chair, Manchester United Supporters Association

9.30: Close

We anticipate a lively evening! Do come, learn a little, and help show there is concern for the future of the HRA!

Uplifting Gig for Amnesty

Young Musician Lucy Ward stars at great evening on January 29th

As part of Derby Holocaust Week Commemorations we were asked, in tandem with Belper AI Group, to help organise a folk concert at the Old Bell Inn on Sadler Gate, Derby .



The star attraction was Lucy Ward a young professional folk musician from Littleover, who has been nominated for the BBC Folk Musician of the Year 2014. Supported by a cast of musicians from Derby and Burton, including Geoff Noble who has been a regular at Belper AI Groups 'Alternative Secret Policeman's Ball' fund-raisers over the past three years.

Needless to say that the weather was awful that night, and yours truly had grave doubts of getting more than ten people for the gig.

However, the Amnesty gods prevailed and 65 people paid their fivers and the night was a roaring success. The folk legend Pete Seeger had died in America the day before. As a tribute to him all the crowd sang. "We Shall Overcome" the amazing anthem that he wrote back in the sixties, and the musicians gave us a taste of Pete's whole repertoire.

I was able to share with the crowd how Amnesty began in 1961 with the campaign to free the two students arrested in Portugal for toasting freedom.

The week before I had been asked to talk to 25 nineteen year old students at Derby Broomfield College campus. To complete the session, I asked the students if they would like to write to a selection of 'Prisoners of Conscience' that I had taken along. So armed with these letters I laid them out on a table at the folk gig, and nearly everybody present countersigned them, and I have subsequently sent them off.

Amnesty International received the proceeds of the night, and all the musicians gave their services free.

A truly great night!. Thanks to Amnesty supporters from Wirksworth, Belper and Derby who turned out on a foul evening . .

Dave Callow

January Social

In January, Instead of our normal meeting we had a very pleasant evening at the Bengal Blues restaurant in Belper. The food was good and the company excellent! We were very pleased that some members of the Belper group were able to join us as well as our former secretary Margaret and her husband Rodney.