



DERBY AMNESTY

Amnesty International (AI) Derby and District Group Newsletter

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

September 2014

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Flag Day Saturday 11 October!

Can you give an hour of your time?



Please give an hour or so of your time to hold a tin in the town centre. We know that the more helpers we have, the more money we make.

As usual the centre for distributing cans will be the Central URC church office in Becketwell Lane.

This is down the side of the old Debenham's building, between Debenham's and Boots. Donations are also welcome. **To offer help or a donation, please see the slip below, or phone or email Anne Feist on 01332 766536 or anne.feist@ntlworld.com**

Diary Dates . . . Diary DatesDiary Dates .

Group Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House

Tue 14 Oct Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH - Talk on Argentina

Sat 11 Oct Flag Day—please join us to help us raise as much as possible for Amnesty.

Tue 11 Nov Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH

Sat 6 Dec Greetings Card Campaign. The QUAD, Derby

AMNESTY URGENT ACTION at the QUAD

On 13th July this year we took the Derby and District Amnesty stand to the Quad for the showing of Belle, a fictional tale, with themes around the beginning of the abolition of slavery.

People signed an Urgent Action letter about Aminetou Mint El Moctar, President of the Women's Association of Heads of Household (Association des femmes chefs de familles, AFCF), who was facing a fatwa with death threats issued by Yehdhih Ould Dahi, leader of a radical Islamist group. We also sent off several postcards in respect of The Stop Torture Campaign.

Whilst it was a quiet afternoon at the cinema, several people took leaflets and signed the letter/postcards. The Quad has kindly agreed that we can occasionally have a stand outside the cinemas, when movies with a human rights message are shown, so we will be keeping an eye out for future screenings. **Lynda**

Reply Slip Amnesty International Flag Day, Saturday 11th Oct 2014 9 am – 4.00 pm.

Meet at Central URC church office, Becketwell Lane

I am able to help with the Flag Day and can help between and

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

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

Email Phone

Please return to Anne Feist (or email or phone) by October 4th. 3 Willson Ave, Littleover DE23 2BD. anne.feist@ntlworld.com



50th anniversary of Derby Amnesty

In July, we held an "AmnesTea" event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Derby and District Amnesty group.

The celebration was attended by friends who have contributed so much to Amnesty and the group over the years. I was delighted that a few of those attending agreed to say a few words about their memories of the group.

The speakers included **Donald MacDonald, Peter Pack, and Sue Wall** all former Chair people and **Carol Berwick** formerly Group Secretary.

Peter was at one time Chair of AI International Executive Committee and brought a good insight to how AI hopes to development its membership in areas outside Europe and N America in the future. At present the membership is very North American and Eurocentric.

It would not be a birthday if we did not have a birthday cake. **Shirley Wessels**, is a human rights activist originally from South Africa who opposed the apartheid regime. She came into exile more than 40 years ago and together with her family made her home in Derby. It was appropriate that Shirley should be the first to cut the cake.

The basic message I got from the speakers is that although the group has achieved a lot over the years there is still much for us to do. I was surprised that in the past a good number of people regularly attended group meetings.

It would be good if the AmnesTea event could inspire more people to join our group so that we can continue our work to campaign for a world where human rights are universally respected.

James Lam

Photos, messages and memories



Sue Wall

"We have such fond memories of the Derby Amnesty group. We were members of the group from about 1980 to 1982 and we were inspired by the enthusiasm and friendship. Particular memories are the book sales where there always seemed to be more books at the end than at the beginning! We moved away then started an Amnesty group in Cirencester which has now been active since 1984. The inspiration to do this came from the Derby group – thanks"

Norah Kennedy and Eric Wilkinson

"Congratulations to Derby AI on 50 years of activity. All good wishes for the future of the group. There is a lot of work to do! Good memories."

*Betty Chesner
(a former Chair who went on to Chair the Bourneville Group and who is still active in her 90s)!*



Donald MacDonald and James Lam

"I have fond memories of my time chairing the group, working with Anne, Greg, Carol and the others. We did some great campaigns together - lobbying MPs, visiting embassies (I can't remember the detail now, but I'm sure we got admitted to the Vietnam Embassy at some point only to be hurried out when they realised why we were there!). I hope you have a great evening. Congratulations on your 50th anniversary and best wishes for the next fifty! "

Martin Stott.



Shirley cuts the celebration cake

"Wow! ... 50 years old. Thanks for remembering me, and the notification/invitation. I'd love to come along ... but ... 10,000 km is a long way to come! Have a great time at the AmnesTea event. Please pass on my congratulations to everyone for reaching such a milestone, and say hello to anyone who remembers me!"

Paul Wormald (Singapore)

Remembering friends we have lost . . .

Inevitably at such a time we thought of some of the people no longer with us who greatly contributed to the work of Amnesty International through the Derby Group.

Amongst them, because such a list cannot be exclusive:- Phillip Whitehead, Kenneth and Dorothy Clay, Dorothy and Gordon Smith, Ronald Beddoes, Dennis Runcorn, Rosemary Read, Pat Turner, Roger Smith, Johanna Clarke, Albury White, Judy Carlin, Keith Bloor and Claudia Krauss.

**Greeting Card Campaign
Saturday 6 December
at the QUAD**

