



DERBY AMNESTY

Amnesty International (AI) Derby and District Group Newsletter

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

September 2015

Chair: Steffi Hahn @ derbyamnesty@gmail.com
Secretary: James Lam 01332 606937 @ dr_j_lam@hotmail.com
Editor: Alison Simcock 01332 349405 @ alison.simcock1@btinternet.com

Flag Day

Sat 17 October!

Can you give an hour of your time?



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

The collection centre, where you can pick up your can, will be the Central URC church office as usual. It is in Becketwell Lane, down the side of the old Debenham's building, between Debenham's and Boots. We are also grateful for any donations if you can't help. **To offer help or donations, please see the slip below, or phone 01332 766536.**

Book Sale The Book Sale this year raised £442 on the day and £191 from further sales, making a grand total of £633. This was less than last year. We had loads of really good books, but we need more customers, especially as it costs us £170 to use the Guildhall. Thanks to all who donated books or money and/or who helped on the day; it was much appreciated. **Anne Feist**

Sponsored Walk. On Sunday 19th July I went on a 10 mile Sponsored Walk organised by the Belper Amnesty group. The route took us around Carsington Water plus detour to make up extra miles needed. I managed to raise £90, which is a great contribution for our group. The walk went well. Only the detour was challenging - a steep incline to the High Peak Trail. We had a pub lunch to keep us going and shared news of each group's upcoming events to support each other. **Steffi Hahn.**

Diary Dates . . Diary Dates . . Diary Dates .

Group Meetings are in the Friends Meeting House (FMH), St Helen's St. Derby All welcome.

Tue 8 Sep	Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH
Tue 13 Oct	Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH
Sat 17 Oct	Flag Day
Tue 11 Nov	Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH
Dec Date TBA	Greetings Card Campaign at St Peter's Centre, St Peter's Street

LATE NEWS Amnesty event at Wirksworth Festival 12-13 Sept

A photo action for Wirksworth adopted case, journalist and cartoonist Prageeth Ekmaligoda. We'll be in Paul's yard (rear of 15 St. John St) 11 - 5 pm both days. *If you can spare an hour or two contact Kerry 07725042991.*

Khumbula's Wedding! It is wonderful to report that Khumbula Dube, a successful asylum seeker from Zimbabwe, who our group did its best to support through friendship and in some practical ways was married on 15th August. The wedding, at Derby Registry office, was followed by a church service at the Shalom International Christian Centre. The evening celebrations comprised of traditional African food and dancing along with speeches. Jill Bryant former Derby Amnesty Chair was able to make the wedding and service as was Chris Walsh, Val and their family. We wish Khumbula and his bride, Judith, every happiness.



Khumbula and Judith on their great day



**Reply Slip Amnesty International Flag Day, Saturday 17th 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 Oct 4th. 3 Willson Ave, Littleover DE23 2BD. anne.feist@outlook.com



AIUK AGM in April

Charities' perspectives

This year's AIUK AGM took place at Warwick University from April 17 to 18th. This was of course just before the General Election. The main theme of the meeting was on Amnesty's campaign to stop the repeal of the Human Rights Act (HRA). The campaign was to get members contacting Prospective Parliamentary Candidates to publicly commit to keeping the HRA. There was a panel discussion with leading lawyers and charities to explain the importance of the HRA. I thought it was useful to have people from organisations such as the Children's Society and Age UK on

the panel. They gave examples where the HRA helped ordinary people on practical issues.

Abortion Study Commissioned

Most of the resolutions that were submitted for debate were uncontroversial. Before the AGM I thought the controversial resolution was the one asking the movement to be fully pro-choice on abortion. The current stance is that Amnesty supports access to abortion in cases of rape, incest or when the life or health of the mother might be threatened. The resolution itself just called on AIUK Board to commission a study to examine the views of the membership whether members were willing for the

movement to move to a more pro-choice stance. There was some debate but the resolution passed with a large majority.

Passionate Debate

What caused the most passionate discussion was the resolution calling on Amnesty to campaign against anti-Semitism in the UK. On the face of it the resolution appeared straightforward. However some delegates were concerned that the resolution was too narrow and that it should call for a campaign against hatred of all religious groups in particular Islamophobia. In the end the resolution was narrowly defeated. **James Lam**

MAGNA 800th CARTA

Concert to mark 800th anniversary

It was Tom Corfield, Assistant Organist at Derby Cathedral, and conductor of the Cathedral Voluntary Choir, who first proposed that the choir should present a concert marking the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. The idea quickly developed to include other performers. Yorkshire-based singing and multi-instrumental duo Trouvère Mediaeval Minstrels presented music from the period, and four actors from Derby Shakespeare Theatre Company – Chris Scott, Alan Smith, James Dean and Steve Pryce – gave dramatised readings of sections of Magna Carta itself.

Admonition To Rulers

Choir items were carefully chosen to reflect aspects of the charter and its implications. William Mathias' hard-hitting An Admonition to Rulers sets a text from the Old Testament Wisdom of Solomon, warning rulers not to over-step the mark, a message subtly underlined in the middle section of Handel's coronation anthem Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened. The themes of imprisonment (and impending execution) and exile were reflected in pieces by Bob Chilcott and William Boyce, while a Latin motet by William Byrd served as a reminder that in Elizabethan and Jacobean England the wrong

set of religious beliefs could land you in very big trouble. **Mike Wheeler**

Irony

It seems ironic that 800 years since the Magna Carta falls at a time when the government is seeking to undermine protection of Human Rights in the UK. It is trying to take us out of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and replace it with a weaker British Bill of Rights.

European Charter on Human rights

The UK was one of the first signatories to the ECHR in 1950 – long before the EU was in the picture, and with the spectre of World War II still looming large. The Convention is one of Churchill's legacies – a clear, pan-continental commitment to basic rights for every person* from Land's End to Siberia. The Convention and that commitment from 47 countries should be one of our greatest sources of pride.

Belarus

We could go from leading the way on universal rights for all lawfully in our country to providing dictators and despots with an example in how to undermine the rights of ordinary people. Only one country in Europe hasn't signed the ECHR: Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship. Is this the company we want to keep? And what will the UK's influence around the world look like if we take that step?

Amnesty Stall

Volunteers from the Derby and Wirks-

worth groups staffed a stall at the concert held in St John's church Derby. They were publicising the danger to human rights in this country posed by the proposed government "reforms". CB

Fight for Rights Petition

if you haven't done so already do sign Amnesty UK's "Fight for Rights" petition in support of the universality of rights: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues> and click "Human Rights Act".



The picture above is of The Amnesty International Magna Carta 800 garden displayed at Hampton Court.

Its centrepiece is a tree, which represents the Ankerwycke Yew in Runnymede under which Magna Carta was signed.

The tree is surrounded by five others which represent Magna Carta's "offspring":

- The Bill of Rights (1689);
- The Slavery Abolition Act (1833);
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- (The European Convention on Human Rights (1950),
- The Human Rights Act (UK 1998).