



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group February 2013 Newsletter



Our thanks to Joan Norris of Shortlands for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 12th February

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 9th April

Planning + EGM Report

Bromley & Orpington Group 17th AGM

Speaker; Mary Hla, Burma Campaign

The Nick Beston Quartet

With special guest vocalist

Sue Rivers

Present a concert of popular jazz standards in aid of
Amnesty International Bromley & Orpington Group

Friday 1 February 2013 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington

Tickets £10 in advance; £11 on the door

From David Howkins 01689 823793

Amnesty UK Extraordinary General Meeting

Several of us registered to attend the EGM at Central Hall, London, on 12th January, with David registered as our official representative to vote the Bromley & Orpington 'block vote'. As a result we had a lengthy discussion to decide whether to support the resolutions or back the Board. The EGM was called by a number of ordinary members concerned that moves to shift resources to new 'hubs' in the developing world (principally India and Brazil) had led to cost cutting at AIUK including a programme of redundancies. There were a range of views, but broadly many felt Amnesty's proposals to move resources had merit, but that the speed of change was causing much hurt and undermining AI's capabilities to campaign from London. On a vote, the Group **decided** to mandate David to support all of the resolutions, which include halting the redundancy programme, freezing the amount AIUK gives to the International Secretariat, and to put any future funding plans to the general membership at an AGM. The Board has said the current funding and organisation plans are 'irreversible' so the implications of the membership voting against the Board were unclear! **STOP PRESS: 600 delegates attended the meeting, with 2,200 proxies registered. The substantive votes to freeze the financial assessment and reverse redundancies failed to achieve the required 75% support and were lost. One resolution requiring the Board to consult with the membership in general session was passed. We will discuss the result at the February meeting.**



Bromley & Orpington Group 17th AGM

Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 7.30pm

Nominations for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to be received by 5th March

Finance

Balance brought forward	£1,265.30
Income	£77.97
Expenditure	£780.00
Balance at 31 st December	£563.27
CHANGE	-£702.03

David presented the financial report to the end of the financial year. He confirmed that our total budgeted donation for 2012 of £2,350 had been achieved. Income this month included private donations of £60.15. It was gratifying to note that we had sold out of Christmas cards this year. A final donation of £780 was made to Amnesty. No monies have so far been received from Sevenoaks in respect of the sponsored walk, meaning it would now be accounted for as part of our 2013 fundraising.

Mary Hla of Burma Campaign will speak on “Burma: On the Road to Democracy?” Tuesday 9th April 7.30pm All Welcome

Monthly Letter: Guatemala

Our monthly letter is in support of a mother's fight for justice. **María Isabel Franco** was 15 years old when she was raped and brutally killed in December 2001. Since then, her mother **Rosa** has been fighting for justice, despite receiving death threats from unknown people on several occasions and facing indifference from the authorities. The Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman published a report in 2007 saying that María's case was handled poorly and that the authorities showed a lack of interest in investigating it. Please ask what steps the Guatemalan authorities are taking to ensure that the killers of María Isabel Franco are brought to justice, what steps are being taken to address the high rate of violence against women and girls in Guatemala, and the low rate of prosecution for these crimes. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which will cost 87p to post.



Bromley & Orpington 2013 Social Evening

Monday 25th February 2013 at 7.30pm

To reserve a place(s) please contact Patrick on 020 8467 4169



Find us on Facebook and on the web.

Present on 8th January: David Howkins, Neville White, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Margaret Coppard, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Patsy Paine, Patrick Nield, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Eve Fisher, Simon Nash, Patrick McDonnell, Clare Ellis, Rene Eastwood, Patricia Eastaugh, Pamela Smith. Apologies: Vivien Glanz, Gladys Edmonds.

Meetings are held in the Wesley Room, Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington commencing at 7.30pm. **E-mail** aibromley@btinternet.com **website:** www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley

Neville White (Chairman) 01689 896368
Neville.white@waitrose.com

Shirley Henderson (Secretary) 01689 855632
shirleyhenderson399@btinternet.com