



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
Bromley & Orpington Group
Christmas & New Year
Newsletter 2012



Our thanks to Roy Parker of Bromley for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 8th January

Tuesday 12th February

Tuesday 12th March

Activity to be confirmed

Activity to be confirmed

17th Bromley & Orpington Group AGM

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 or davidhowkins@virginmedia.com

Monthly Letter: Belarus

Our last campaigning letter of the year relates to Belarus, commonly referred to as the last dictatorship in Europe. **Ales Bialiatski** is a prominent human rights defender in Belarus and the chairman of the organisation Human Rights Centre Viasna. He was arrested on 4 August 2011 and imprisoned on 24 November 2011 for four and a half years. Amnesty International believes that his imprisonment is intended to prevent him working to defend human rights and considers him to be a prisoner of conscience. He did not receive a fair trial. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which will cost 87p to post.



Bromley & Orpington 2013 Social Evening

Fine Food & Company at 'Caligulette' Bromley High Street

Provisional Date: Monday 25th February 2013 at 7.30pm

To reserve a place(s) please contact Neville.

MP Johnson Writes...

We received a reply from Orpington MP **Jo Johnson** to our concerns regarding government proposals to hear evidence in secret as part of the **Justice and Security Bill**. Mr Johnson defends the proposals as "judges are currently barred from taking sensitive national security evidence into account in civil compensation cases"; the proposed changes will allow such material to be scrutinised, whilst maintaining national security. Amnesty

fears this is a draconian response that will result in more evidence being heard *in camera* making it harder for defendants to receive justice, and a breach of the fundamental right to hear evidence against you presented in open court.

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£1190.60
Income	£174.75
Expenditure	£100.05
Balance at 11 th December	£1,263.30
CHANGE	£74.70

Income included two corporate donations (£75.00), film night receipts (£32.00) other donations of £20.30 and Christmas card sales (£47.45). David was authorised to make a donation to Amnesty so as to meet our budget of £2,350, which we should do comfortably. At the time of writing, there was no news on the outcome of the Sponsored Walk, and any monies received will now form part of our 2013 allocation. We are also delighted to have sold out of Christmas cards this year for the very first time!

Amnesty Extraordinary General Meeting – 12th January 2013

If you are an Amnesty member you should by now have received details of an **EGM** to be held on Saturday 12th January at Methodist Central Hall. The issues it will address are fundamental to the future of our movement and deserve close attention. The proposers are calling for the restructuring of AIUK to be halted, all redundancies to be stopped and reversed, and for the contribution AIUK makes to the International Secretariat to be frozen until any increase is approved by the membership. Amnesty's strategy and vision to move resources from the 'north' to new hubs in the growing south such as Brazil and India will require savings and cuts to UK resources so that these can be diverted to fulfil the vision. Although potentially commendable, the process has been painful and difficult. The EGM will therefore be an important test for the future direction of Amnesty. To attend the meeting in London on 12th January register at www.amnestyegm.com or contact the support team on 020 7033 1777. More information and a proxy form can be obtained from the same sources.

*An audience of about 20 enjoyed a thought provoking evening watching the award winning documentary **The Corporation** on 23rd November. The evening also raised £34. Our thanks to Simon for organising the evening, and to everyone who brought refreshments. We also took part in the **Hayes Christmas Tree** festival; warm thanks to all who dressed our beautiful tree and allowed us to take part.*



Seasons' Greetings for a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all of our supporters and friends from us all at Bromley & Orpington Amnesty

Present on 11th December: David Howkins, Neville White, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Margaret Coppard, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Patsy Paine, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Chris Purnell, Clare Ellis, Patricia Eastaugh, Pamela Smith and Simon Nash. **Apologies:** Rene Eastwood, Eve Fisher, Patrick Nield, Gladys Edmonds, Vivien Glanz and Peter Martin.

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

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