



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
Bromley & Orpington Group
Christmas & New Year 2013/14
Newsletter



Our thanks to Joan Williams of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 14th January

Tuesday 11^h February

Tuesday 11th March

Campaign Meeting

Speaker: Paul Eagle, 'Business & Human Rights'

18th 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 31st January 2014 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church Sevenoaks Road, Orpington

Tickets £10 in advance; £11 on the door

From David Howkins 01689 823793



*Our showing of the movie documentary **Burma VJ** on 22nd November attracted a supportive audience, including a speaker from Burma Campaign, who thanked us for our continuing work on behalf of human rights in Burma. The event also raised £26. Our thanks to Simon for organising the event, and to all those who helped with the refreshments.*

Monthly Action: President Putin Stop the Crackdown!

In January a group of people gathered in St Petersburg to have a snowball fight. The police responded by banning it and dispersing the crowd, calling it an 'unauthorised gathering'. The space for freedom of assembly, association and expression is fast shrinking in Russia. President Putin has also introduced provisions that force NGOs who engage in "political activity" and receive foreign funding to register as "foreign agents"; both Amnesty and Human Rights Watch have had their Moscow offices raided. We signed a petition calling on the Russian authorities to end the crackdown. Please add your voice by signing the Amnesty petition at www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/putin-stop-crackdown

Bromley & Orpington 2014 Social Evening

'Ephesus' Orpington High Street

Monday 24th February 2014 at 7.30pm

Please reserve your place(s) from Wendy on 01689 829977

Finance

Balance brought forward	£1,365.67
Income	£186.00
Expenditure	£830.36
Balance at 10 th December	£721.31
CHANGE	-£644.36

Income included donations from St Martin Chelsfield, and the Chelsfield Ladies Tuesday Club (£90.00), Christmas card sales (£56), and other donations totalling £50. A donation of £800 was sent to Amnesty. It was agreed a further £150 would be sent to Amnesty, to bring our 2013 total to £3,100.

Justice for Hakamada Iwao

Hakamada Iwao is officially the world's longest serving death row prisoner having been sentenced in 1968 on evidence now widely accepted as flawed. He is in very poor health, and time is running out. We signed a petition to the Japanese authorities demanding the case be re-opened. One of the original trial judges has publicly questioned the verdict. Amnesty has also expressed concern at the escalation of executions under the Abe administration. Japan has executed eight people in 2013, including two double killers. The Japanese authorities have dismissed all appeals to cease executions claiming it has popular support.



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

2013 was another busy and eventful year for us, during which we....

- *Raised and donated £3,100 for Amnesty*
- *Successfully organised or participated in five fund raising events:*
 - *Sevenoaks Sponsored walk; London street collection, Cudham Fair, Jazz concert, and the film night*
- *Held a Day of Action in Bromley; attended a demonstration at the Zimbabwe High Commission*
- *Maintained a mailing list of 141, to whom we sent 12 Newsletters and 10 Appeal Letters*
- *Built our Facebook presence to 24, and maintained an up to date Group website*
- *Maintained a strong average attendance of 15 at monthly meetings*
- *Heard presentations from four speakers at monthly meetings including Amnesty Director, Kate Allen*
- *Sent two delegates to the Amnesty National Conference & AGM in Warwick, and attended the EGM*
- *Began work on a new prisoner case File, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Dr Liu Xiaobo and his wife*
- *Took part in the Orpington Christmas Tree Festival at our home base of Orpington Methodist Church*
- *Successfully secured sponsorship of the Newsletter through to November 2014*
- *Signed at least one group letter and took part in one other campaigning action at every meeting*



Find us on Facebook and on the web.

Present on 10th December: David Howkins, Neville White, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Gladys Edmonds, Patsy Paine, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Eve Fisher, Simon Nash, Rene Eastwood and Mariela Quaranta. Apologies: Vivien Glanz, Peter Martin, Margaret Coppard.

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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