

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group



Christmas & New Year Newsletter 2014/15

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 13th January

Tuesday 10th February

Tuesday 10th March

Campaign Meeting

Speaker: Shane Enright Amnesty International

19th Bromley & Orpington Group AGM

We raised £4,632 for Amnesty in 2014 – Thank you!

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 6th February 2015 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 Action: El Salvador: My Body – My Rights

In El Salvador, it doesn't matter if you're pregnant as a result of rape, or whether the pregnancy is a risk to your life: abortion is banned in all cases. If you're found guilty of having an abortion, or of helping someone have one, you could be imprisoned for up to 12 years. If you have a miscarriage, you could be jailed for up to 50 years for aggravated homicide, because the state suspects you of having a clandestine abortion. El Salvador has one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world. Abortion is totally banned in all circumstances and harsh prison sentences befall those accused of terminating a pregnancy. The My Body My Rights El Salvador campaign report, *On the brink of death: Violence against women and the abortion ban in El Salvador*, charts how the restrictive laws are destroying the lives of women and girls. We wrote to the President of El Salvador calling on him to end the restrictive ban on abortion, eliminate all punitive measures inflicted on women and provide for the release of all women and girls imprisoned for having a termination. We also called for informed education for all women in El Salvador. We also wrote to the Dominican Republic authorities on the same issue, although the restrictions are not as severe there as in El Salvador.



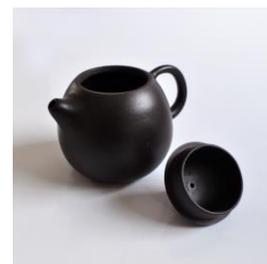
Finance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance brought forward | £1,153.49 |
| Income | £531.97 |
| Expenditure | £1,066.36 |
| Balance at 9 th December | £619.10 |
| CHANGE | -£539.39 |

Income included donations from Margaret's coffee morning and a collection at St Martin Chelsfield of £445.97. The 'Sponsor a Newsletter' appeal raised £60 and we took £26 in donations at the film night. A donation of £1,050 was sent to Amnesty, bringing our 2014 total to an amazing £4,632.00. David confirmed there would be no BLT event in 2015.

Tea for Liu Xia

Liu Xia, poet and wife of our Nobel Peace Prize winning Prisoner of Conscience Liu Xiaobo, remains under house arrest and unable to leave her house. Iron Buddha tea is her favourite and we carefully packaged up a consignment together with a card signed by all of us. We also enclosed a photo of all of us holding up the tea in support and solidarity with her plight. We hope she receives it!



"I would like to thank Amnesty for helping and supporting my community as well as myself and thank all of the people who devoted their time to write"

Yom Bopha, Cambodia – 2013 Write for Rights.

"It's incredible that there is so much support from different countries and cultures, and that people who don't even know me feel solidarity with me and support my struggle"

Miriam Lopez, Mexico - 2013 Write for Rights.

"When I received the letters...I was elated. It was beyond my expectations. I received five huge packages of letters. This is a huge resource of encouragement to me"

Serkalem Fasil, Ethiopia - 2013 Write for Rights

Our traditional Christmas meeting includes sending a Message of Hope. We remember all those suffering human rights abuses by writing a simple greetings message in support and solidarity.

In 2013 Amnesty's "Write for Rights" Campaign led to the release of three prisoners. People in 143 countries sent 2.3 million messages of hope. This year another 12 cases are featured across the world.

Please join us:

Go to www.amnesty.org.uk to find out more about this year's 12 cases.

"Season's Greetings for a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our supporters"

Present on 9th December: David Howkins, Neville White, Ted Burke, Gladys Edmonds, Patsy Paine, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Rene Eastwood, Vivien Glanz, Margaret Coppard, Rindy Bakker and Vivienne Andrews. **Apologies:** Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Simon Nash, Chris Purnell, Eleanor Ivens.

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

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