



SEPTEMBER 2014 Amnesty International -Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Note - unless stated - all Action Evenings are at the Backhouse Room, 116 Handside Lane, WGC, AL8 6SZ from 8pm.

Wed Sept 10th

Action Evening - letter writing and updates.

Wed Oct 8th - Action

Evening. AIUK's vice chair, Hannah Perry, speaks on the restructuring of Amnesty to better address human rights issues world wide and on the most recent International Board Meeting in Berlin.

Do come if you possibly can.

Wed Nov 12th - Action Evening.

Wed Dec 17th - Greetings
Cards for Prisoners and
Social Evening. Send greetings, then join us for mulled wine and mince pies.

QUIZ NIGHT 2014

“Probably the best in the area.”
SATURDAY OCTOBER 18th
WELWYN CIVIC CENTRE.

Cost (pegged at 2012 prices)
£10

Includes Fish and Chip supper or Vegetarian alternative.
BYO Drinks, glasses and nibbles.
(NB The vegetarian alternative meal must be booked in advance. ‘On the night’ will be too late!)

TEAMS STRICTLY 8 ONLY. Book a whole table or come in ones and twos and join a team on the night.

Tickets from Alison Ewington
01707 376282

alison.ewington@ntlworld.com

We are delighted that top quiz master Phil Friend and his crack team will again be running the show.

RAFFLE

Can you donate a prize to our always-excellent raffle?
Bottles (preferably full). Chocolates. Plants. Vouchers.
Fairtrade goods... Last year we asked for Porsches but none arrived. Can anyone spare a BMW?

Please contact Vicky - vicky_woodcraft@hotmail.com or 01707 326109 to arrange collection or to let us know you will be bringing something on the night.

Street Collection

Saturday December 6th.

To offer an hour - or two - please contact Michael Hahn
hahn2@btinternet.com or 01707 395964.

NB If you can't help on the day it will save Michael time if you can let him know this.

HOW HAVE WE DONE THIS YEAR?

Well we've been quite busy as always.

In April Wai Hnin from the Burma Campaign spoke at our well-attended public meeting on the current situation in her country and in particular the deteriorating situation in ethnic minority areas. (See next column.)

The Plant Sale in May, hosted by Robert and Brenda Weeden in their glorious garden, raised a magnificent £450. Many thanks to Brenda and Robert and to everyone who brought - or bought - plants, cakes and books.

June Street Collection, master-minded by Michael Hahn, raised more than £600, which was sent straight off to Amnesty, as well as many signatures on letters relating to the new Campaign Against Torture. Special thanks to Michael and to everyone who took part.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Group Website -
<https://welwyn.amnesty.org.uk/>
Follow us on Facebook -
Amnesty Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts.

BURMA UPDATE.

Amnesty and other human rights organisations are petitioning the EU to maintain pressure on the government of President Thein Sein, who has failed to keep his pledge to release all prisoners of conscience by the end of 2013. At least 70 political prisoners remain in detention and this year scores of human rights defenders, journalists, farmers and political activists have been arrested or imprisoned simply for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

Violence against ethnic minorities continues in Kachin and Northern Shan states and reports continue of torture, rape, unlawful killings, sexual violence and forced labour - in particular by the security forces. Following widespread, anti-Muslim violence in 2012, at least 137,000 people, mostly Rohingya, remain displaced and international organisations have been prevented from providing humanitarian aid, including life-saving medical assistance, to thousands of displaced Rohingya. The authorities have failed to investigate violence against the Rohingya people and discriminatory laws depriving them of many human rights remain in place.

*** We plan to write to our MEP and MP on these matters at our Action Evening on September 10th.***

Want to Raise money for Amnesty?

How about arranging an AmnesTEA? Can be as large or small as you like.

A kit is available from www.amnesty.org.uk/amnestea

Women's Rights in Afghanistan.

Discussions are ongoing about the amount of international involvement that will remain when troops leave the country at the end of the year. Attacks on women and girls are ongoing and there are fears for their human rights, including the right to an education. To get involved visit:-

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/groups-activity-pack-september-2014-women's-rights-afghanistan>.

Suggestions for letters to your MP are included.

For details of [Action Evenings](#) or other matters contact our secretary Sue Friend - 01707 273894 susan.friend@sky-net.net

