

Amnesty International Southend Group

amnestysouthend.googlemail.com
www.amnesty.org.uk/southend



JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER

NEXT GROUP MEETING

Thursday
10th September 7:30pm

The Balmoral Centre
Salisbury Avenue

Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

COME ON THE SPONSORED WALK INSTEAD

The Balmoral Centre is now going to be our
“permanent” home for the monthly meetings

WRITE, WRITE, WRITE or e-mail

Yevgeniy Vitishko a Prisoner of Conscience in Russia. Send him a card or letter, write to the authorities on his behalf. Details [here](#).

Gaza Crisis. Ask the Foreign Secretary to support Palestine's bid for justice via the International Criminal Court. Details [here](#).

Write to your local paper and ask why **the UK Intelligence Service has been spying on Amnesty** (The Investigatory Powers Tribunal stated recently that GCHQ had been unlawfully been spying on AI). Details [here](#) and draft letter on the [Group website](#).

DIARY DATES

Sunday 2nd August Sponsored Walk
Sunday 6th September The Big Event
Thursday 10th September Group Meeting
Thursday 8th October Group Meeting
Thursday 12th November Group Meeting
**Saturday 12th December Annual Write
for Rights card and letter-writing event**

We have a publicity stall at

The Big Event

Priory Park, Southend-on-Sea
Sunday 6th September 12:30 – 5:30pm

Please spare an hour or so to help
Contact Mike on 01702 204748 or
at amnestysouthend.googlemail.com

Martin's Sponsored Walk

We'd welcome your company and sponsorship on **SUNDAY 2nd August starting at 2:00pm** at the Coastguard Station to the south of Gunners Park in Shoebury and walking 7 miles to Leigh -on-Sea. There's already a small but eager band ready to walk in sun hats and Amnesty jackets so please join us.

Please let us know if you'll sponsor Martin amnestysouthend.googlemail.com.
or use the sponsorship form on the [website](#) and bring it along with you

Meeting on 9th July 2015 at Andrew's home in Leigh-on-Sea

There were 10 of us at the meeting. We wrote appeal letters and cards and tweeted about spying on NGOs in the UK, the status of Gaza with the International Criminal Court and on behalf of Yevgeniy Vitishko. If you want to write on any of these you can find details attached or by clicking on the links on the front page.

Present: Andrew, Richard, Audrey, Doug, Martin, Heidrun, Steve, Maureen, Muriel & Mike.

Apologies: Tricia.

Dick Jones – we spent a little time remembering Dick, who died suddenly the week before last. Audrey and Mike have written to his daughter with our condolences.

From Last meeting – Martin and Andrew had a table at The Leigh Folk Festival on the weekend of 27th and 28th June; they felt that it had been useful and would be worth doing again next year. It was agreed that Mike would book a table at the Big Event on 6th September in Priory Park and that we would pay the £30 booking fee. Audrey, Richard and Andrew had written “Why I Joined Amnesty” pieces and Martin would load them onto the Group website. If you want to do a piece about why you joined amnesty send it to amnestysouthend@googlemail.com.

Stop Torture Campaign – Andrew: there had been no recent updates or actions but he has circulated the Stop Torture cards round a lawyer's office

Burma – Doug: nothing to report.

Prageeth Eknaligoda (Sri Lanka) – Doug has some material prepared for the next meeting.

Treasurer – Heidrun: we have £154.83 in the bank. We have a couple of expenses coming up including the UK affiliation fee and payment for the meeting room at the Balmoral Centre but with the subs and donations we've received have sufficient to cover these.

Membership – Mu; we have now received a total of £330 in subs and donations. We decided not to cash Dick Jones' cheque. Thanks to everybody who has contributed.

Fundraising – the **sponsored walk** on 2nd August will start at 2:00pm at the Coastguard Station to the south of Gunners Park, Shoebury. **Sponsorship needed SEE FRONT PAGE.**

Secretary – Mike: the AI UK Monthly Mailing says that “resources are being created” for the continuing campaign for the Human Rights Act; that there are vacancies for Country Co-ordinators at AI UK (if you're interested go to www.amnesty.org.uk/cc); and gives details of the Gay Pride events over summer. The current “Amnesty” magazine includes a set of “Real Lives” cases on whose behalf you can write.

AOB – why did you join Amnesty? Please tell us – write a brief note (250 – 300 words) on whatever

Next Meeting: 10th September, 7:30pm at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU. **NO MEETING IN AUGUST.**

Mike Pregnall

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