

AMNESTY BORDERS GROUP

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012



Campaigning

This year we are opting in to **AI UK's campaign on Forced Evictions**, which now includes Roma/Gypsies and Travellers.

We will be sending out more information shortly, but in the meantime, go to

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_21128.pdf

News from the AGM

Moira Walsh has taken up the post of Chair

Jane Pearn is the group Secretary

William Windram continues as Treasurer

Jessamy Pears continues as letter-writing Organiser

Felicity Burrows continues as Publicity Officer

DIARY DATES 2012-2013

Date	Event	Venue
31 st May	Letter-writing -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose
21 st June	Eat out for amnesty. Please let us know by 14th June if you are joining us -----	Thai Restaurant, Duns
30 th June	Fund-raising coffee morning -----	Corn exchange, Melrose
18 th August	Beyond Borders event -----	Traquair House
30 th August	Letter-writing -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose
September	Book stall at St James' Fair, Kelso -----	TBA
27 th September	Speaker – to be arranged -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose
25 th October	Letter-writing -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose
29 th November	Greetings cards campaign -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose
24 th January	Speaker - Ros Robertson, from EAPPI (see page 2) speaking on the theme of our special focus this year – forcible evictions -----	TBA
28 th February	Letter-writing -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose
28 th March	Speaker – to be arranged -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose
25 th April	AGM -----	Ormiston Institute, Melrose

ALL MEETINGS 7.30 – 9.00PM UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

Suggestions, please

If you would like to see any changes made to the group, we'd love to know. Are you happy with the venue? Would another day of the week be better for you? Could we be involved in other activities? Should we be doing more to raise our public profile? *Don't be shy – tell us what you really think!*

Ella Stone memorial project

Ella Stone was a longstanding supporter of Amnesty and has bequeathed a sum of money to the group. We have agreed to set up a project in her memory, promoting the work of Amnesty in Borders schools. We will be setting up a small group to manage this project after the summer and if you would like to be involved, please contact Moira broomloan@hotmail.com / 01573 255 500

Beyond Borders, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th August

We plan to have a presence at this unique literary festival bringing international writers, thinkers and politicians together for a weekend of inspiring debates, literary walks and storytelling bike rides through the beautiful Borders' countryside. More details to follow.

<http://www.beyondbordersscotland.com>

January speaker: Ros Robertson

Ros has recently returned from Palestine as an Accompanier with EAPPI and her talk guarantees to be fascinating. We are hoping to have a really good turnout for this event. Details to follow on the venue, but in the meantime, make this the first entry in your 2013 diary!

<http://www.eappi.org>

Website: all Amnesty group websites are being updated – watch this space for the new look. If you'd like to contribute to the website, contact

felicity.burrows+amnesty@gmail.com

<http://borders.amnesty.org.uk>

The Olympianist, Anthony Hewitt

Charity Concert, Tuesday May 22nd, Kelso Old Parish Church:–, Anthony is cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats, giving a charity recital each evening of his tour: he will be followed by his own piano in the 'Van Beethoven'. Anthony will be collecting money for his named charities, including Amnesty International.

Can you help?

We'd like to compile list of people who are happy to lend an *occasional* hand at our events. You don't need to be an Amnesty expert, just a willing helper! It would be great if we had a pool of volunteers so that we don't always have to turn to the small band of 'usual suspects'. It also makes it easier to plan ahead if we know there are people to help out; either behind-the-scenes –planning, setting up or putting away– or 'front of house'.

Events include the coffee morning and the book sale and other public events such as the Beyond Borders events, where we hope to have a stall with some AI literature.

If you would like to add your name to the list, or can offer to help at a specific event, please contact Felicity or **Moir**a (see foot of page for contact details).

The Help, by Kathryn Stockett - (Reader review adapted from www.amazon.co.uk)

Paperback: 464 pages **Publisher:** Fig Tree (23 July 2009)

Set in Jackson, Mississippi in 1962, the story is narrated by three women: black maids Aibileen and Minny, and Miss Skeeter, is a white college graduate who wants to make something of her life. We follow these women as they embark on a dangerous journey to try and change decades of prejudice and pave the way for a better life for future generations. Through the words of each of these women we learn how rife racism and intolerance were back in the Deep South in the 1960's. There are tales of cruelty and humiliation but also times of tenderness and real love. The story is told in all its rawness, primarily from the point of view of the black maids; of the mistrust and even hatred on both sides of the colour divide. Despite the subject matter, the book never feels too heavy or preachy: it is as light as one of Minny's famous cakes and there are moments that are both riotously funny and tender.

CONTACTS:

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