**Thame Amnesty Group Report April 2012-April 2013**

This year has been busy with 6-12 people attending the monthly meetings. The newsletter has continued to be a great success reaching over 100 people on our email list and hopefully encouraging them to take action in the many Amnesty campaigns. Also we have an active website, yahoo group and facebook sites but as yet this has not lead to increased meeting attendance.

Group members have taken an active interest in the wider Amnesty movement with attendance at the Extraordinary General Meeting in January and also at the Regional Meeting in Aylesbury in the same month. Feedback from these meetings helps the group keep up to speed as does all the information we get from Bob Corn our Regional Rep. and also the newly introduced monthly letter from the Chair of the AIUK Board.

We have recently joined the Indonesian Network run by Paul Hainsworth of the Reading Group as we already take actions in relation to prisoners of conscience in Indonesia such as Filep Karma.

At the monthly meetings we have taken letter writing actions on prisoners of conscience in Indonesia, Laos, China, Bahrain; disappeared people and extrajudicial killings in Pakistan, Mexico, Sri Lanka; forced evictions in Haiti and Angola; the death penalty in Japan and the USA. We have been more active in contacting our MP particularly in relation to the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations, the rights of women in Afghanistan, and the continued imprisonment of Filep Karma in Indonesia.

We have had speakers at meetings on human rights in Northern Nigeria and land rights in Namibia. Also we had a debate on Poverty as a human rights issue using a short speech on DVD by Nick Dearden from the Jubilee Debt Campaign as a starting point. Also for a second year Michael Esvelt from the Oxford City Group did a training session for us this time on Arms Control.

This was another successful fund raising year with over £444 raised by the Amnesty Poetry and Music evening at the Players Theatre, £434 at the Street Collection and over £100 at the Christmas Charity Fair. In addition these events raise the profile of Amnesty and at the street collection we got over 100 signatures for the Arms Trade Treaty campaign which came to a successful conclusion at the UN in April this year after a decade of campaigning in which Amnesty took a leading role.

Thank you to everybody who has worked so hard in the group in the last year. We are sorry to lose Sue Rowe, who has moved to Oxford, and set up our website but has kindly agreed to continue at present until we can find an IT confident person to take it over. Sandra Davison has taken over her role as Death Penalty Campaign Rep.

Bob Fieldsend. Chair Thame Amnesty Group