



# Amnesty International

## Bloxham Group



**Protect the Human**

**2006 Newsletter**

### What is Amnesty?

Amnesty International is a movement of ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

### What does Bloxham Amnesty do?

Bloxham Amnesty Group is one of over 300 local groups in the UK. We represent Amnesty in the Banbury area. We:

- write letters to foreign governments to protest about the plight of particular individuals unjustly imprisoned, suffering torture or facing execution;
- take part in world-wide Amnesty campaigns on particular issues – for example, to press for greater control of the arms trade (see [www.amnesty.org.uk/controlarms](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/controlarms)), or to stop violence against women (see [www.amnesty.org.uk/svaw](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/svaw));
- raise awareness of human rights issues and abuse cases through organising events, publicity in local media, liaising with our local MP, and working with local schools (we have links with a number of Amnesty groups in local secondary schools); and
- raise funds to support Amnesty's research and campaigning activities (we typically raise well over £1,000 a year for Amnesty centrally).

### A Million Faces demand a global arms trade treaty.....

By Johann Holt

**FACT:** By 2020, the number of deaths and injuries from war and violence will overtake the number of deaths caused by killer diseases such as malaria and measles.

**FACT:** There are around 639 million small arms and light weapons in the world today. Eight million more are produced every year.

Without strict control, such weapons will continue to fuel violent conflict, state repression, crime, and domestic abuse. Unless governments act to stop the spread of arms, more lives will be lost, more human rights violations will take place, and more people will be denied the chance to escape poverty.

The Control Arms campaign has been asking people to add their weight to this campaign by adding their photograph and support to a global petition.

After three years' hard work by campaigners all around the world, the Control Arms Million Faces petition has now reached its target. AI will use these faces to send a powerful, global message of support to the world's governments for an International Arms Trade Treaty.

Bloxham group has been supporting this campaign and has taken pictures of many of our supporters, at local events.

We still need your support: go to [www.controlarms.org/](http://www.controlarms.org/) for more information.

## What goes on at a Bloxham Group meeting?

On the second Tuesday of May I attended my first Bloxham Amnesty International Group meeting, with a slight feeling of trepidation as I anticipated meeting a group of highly political, serious individuals, which in reality turned out to be a jolly huddle of welcoming villagers (think more Vicar of Dibley than Deliverance!).

The chairman covered a wide range of current Amnesty issues and I listened to the detailed developments of the summer garden party and was amused by (1) the complete lack of sombreness that I had previously envisaged, (2) the whirlpool of musical contributors willing to make an appearance at the garden party, and (3) the thought that I was probably lowering the average Bloxham Amnesty-goers age to about 50!

We finished by signing and sending a letter regarding the stop violence to women campaign.

I came away loaded with leaflets and literature to give me an idea of Amnesty's main aims and philosophies and more importantly feeling quite comforted that I had done something positive, an hour from my time that could hopefully make a difference to somebody's life, which I think is my main reason for joining this active and friendly group. Thank you for making me and my family feel so welcome and involved.

**By Helen Warren**

*Bloxham Amnesty Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except August, at 8.00pm. The venue is High House, High St, Bloxham – more or less opposite the Red Lion pub in the main road. All are very welcome.*

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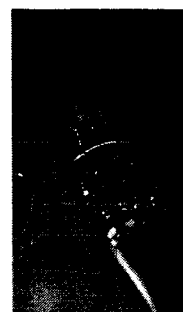
### **Bloxham Amnesty International Group**

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Publicity Officer: Ian Myson (tel. 01295 720951; email ian\_myson@hotmail.com)

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# Banbury String Players



**7.30pm, Sat 16 Sept**

**St Mary's Church**

**Bloxham**

*Handel Concerto Grosso*

*Bach Air on a G string*

*Walton Henry V suite*

*Bartok Romanian Dances*

*Campling Eternity's Sunrise*

*Plus a baroque oboe concerto*

**\*\*\*Interval refreshments\*\*\***

*Admission free;*

*collection in aid of*

*Amnesty International*