

# FUNDRAISING UPDATE



January 2025

Happy New Year from everyone in the Community and Events Fundraising team! We are delighted to be starting off 2025 with a bumper fundraising update featuring events from up and down the country that raised money for Amnesty UK and in support of human rights locally. These events were just the tip of the iceberg contributing to the remarkable contribution of £67,000 local groups donated directly to Amnesty International UK last year. Many thanks to everyone who helped organise a fundraiser last year – your support helps enable vital human rights work. If your group is interested in organising a fundraising event next year, read on for inspiration.

## Quiz & Dips in Norwich

The Norwich Amnesty Group host an annual fundraising quiz that's always one of the highlights of the fundraising year for Amnesty Groups. This year's was no exception! I spoke to David Ford, the group's treasurer, and he told me how the event went:

*“In November we held our annual Quiz and Dips fundraising event. More than a hundred guests had a great evening which began with an appeal for support for our work locally, illustrating this with the example of our actions in the North Africa Network. During the evening in addition to the quiz we also held a raffle, a member organised a produce stall and during the interval we all took part in our heads and tails game! Also, during the interval we served lots of dips, a selection of cheeses, bread and fruit.*



Quizzers pack out the Norwich Group's annual fundraiser

*“All together the evening raised £1,145 for Amnesty! Another great success.”*

£1,145 is an incredible amount to raise from a fundraising quiz! These events are the perfect fundraiser for groups of all size, whether they raise over a thousand pound or much less they serve as the perfect advertisement for the group and are a lot of fun for everyone involved. Contact our Community and Events fundraising team on the details below if you are interested in organizing a quiz with your group.

## Making a Song and Dance of It

From one staple of the Amnesty International UK fundraising calendar to another! The Cardigan and North Pembrokeshire Amnesty Group's Making a Song and Dance of It event has been running for the last twenty years. This year's event was a total sell out. The evening's speaker Dr Clare Frost, who lives locally and is a GP, spoke about her experiences running a hospital in Gaza. She had just returned to Pembrokeshire a few days earlier from a 5-week stay. In a moving and impassioned speech, she told those present about the conditions there and what it was like for the doctors running a hospital with no proper equipment or access to medicine.

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As always, the event featured some amazing local talent. This year guests were entertained by local sopranos Ilar Toft and Catrin Aur as well as Raphael James, the current winner of the Young Musician of Dyfed Award. Local poets Dave Urwin and musician Glen Peters also took part performing their own compositions. The evening concluded with dancing to a Jazz quartet from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and over £2,300 was collected for Amnesty International UK.

Events featuring live entertainment take a little more effort than others to organise but they have enormous fundraising potential. Make use of contacts you or your supporters have to find people with the experience and contacts needed to put on these events and you will be well on the way to putting on a successful fundraiser. As always, contact us for advice, support and help promoting your events to the wider public.

## 50th Birthday celebrations marked by Ukelele Concert

Live music fundraisers of all sorts go down a storm. The Ipswich Amnesty Group are a great example of this with their now annual ukelele concert fundraiser. Jenny Barbazon, the group treasurer, got in touch to tell us how it went this year:

*“It was the third time the band has performed for Ipswich Amnesty, each time a sellout success. This time they were at the Two Sisters Arts Centre in Trimley near Felixstowe. They played a wide range of music from 1970s to present day. They have asked if they can come back again next year.”*

*“After paying expenses we made £636 in ticket sales, plus a further £17.40 in donations. It was a great way to end our 50th anniversary year.”*



D'Ukes in full swing entertaining the Felixstowe crowd

We are delighted to hear this event was such a success and that the group, Essex based electric ukulele band D'Ukes, are keen to come back this year.

## York Amnesty Group's Ceilidh

Continuing the music theme, this time with added opportunities for participation, we wanted to tell you about a successful ceilidh fundraiser organized by the York Amnesty Group. The event was a great success, raising £500 for Amnesty International UK, and both the organisers and all who came had a great time. This is another wonderful example of a fundraising event which not only brings funds, but also attracts supporters, both to the group and to

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Amnesty International UK. Like most events of this sort, the main challenge is securing a band and a venue. If you are interested in hosting one of your own to attract new supporters and bring in donations, contact local ceilidh bands to see if they would be interested in partnering to hold a fundraiser. They may be willing to play for free or for a reduced fee if they are Amnesty International supporters themselves.

## Financial Return Forms

Late last month we sent an email to all treasurers thanking them for their efforts throughout the year and also asking them to complete a Financial Return Form – please let us know if you did not receive this email. We ask all groups to fill out one of these forms to give us an overview of local group income and expenditure so we can work out how best to support them. Please fill out and return a Financial Return Form for your group before March 31:

[Download a PDF of the Financial Return Form](#)

[Complete an online version of the form](#)

Contact us on the details below if you would rather we sent a hard copy of the form in the post.

## Support for your Fundraising

Our Community Fundraising and Events team is on hand to help you make your fundraising plans a reality. Get in touch with Richard using the details below to discuss what you want to do and to order free fundraising materials (including collection buckets and card readers!) and help promoting events:

Email: [richard.glynn@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:richard.glynn@amnesty.org.uk)

Phone: 07827 694 313

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/amnestyrich/](https://www.instagram.com/amnestyrich/)

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