

ABOLISHWAR

Newsletter No: 6 Summer 2006 Price per Issue £1

Welcome to an
expanded edition
of Abolish War!

Contents

Remembrance Sunday
The Barcelona Report
Peace Tax 7
RSUI Conference
MANA Concert Speech
Updates
History Conference
Kids in Downing Street
Arnold Toynbee
Letters
Events

MAW AGM

Saturday

11 November

Essex Hall

1-6 Essex Street
(off the Strand)

London WC2

10.30am - 1pm

Speakers:

Arlene Audergon

(author - *The War Hotel*)

Carne Ross

(Independent Diplomats)

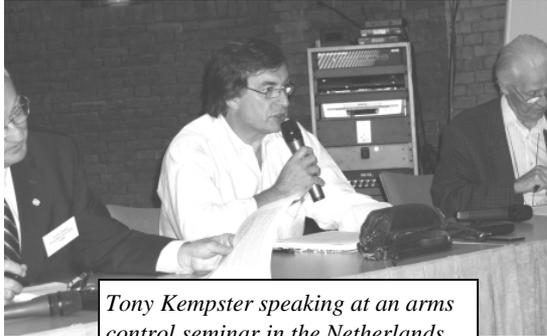
2pm - 3.30pm

AGM

All welcome

Letter from the Chair

These are challenging times for the peace movement. All of us involved seem to be working on an increasing wide range of activities and the demand for speakers at conferences and in schools in particular grows apace. I have been busy especially with religious groups and have just done an interview to be incorporated into a new DVD for schools on the ethics of war.



Tony Kempster speaking at an arms control seminar in the Netherlands.

The quagmire of Iraq and Afghanistan deepens and Israel's race to destroy Hezbollah, before the world calls for peace, destabilises the region further. Then we have the on-going discussion about Britain's Trident replacement and the demand to have a proper public debate on this. It has been good to hear our officers and members speaking on the media and read their letters to the press. Please continue to keep us informed about your activities and regional events.

All this confirms that militarism and political belief in the value of armed conflict have to be tackled at their roots; which, of course, is MAW's vocation. What is happening also emphasises that conflicts have their own momentum and depend crucially on the regional context in which they develop. This is why I believe it is important for MAW to be active on the international scene, and in May and June I spent two weeks with the International Peace Bureau in Geneva to build firmer links with the organisation and discuss collaborative projects (IPB has some 250 member organisations around the world in 60 countries).

I also carried out a review of the operation of IPB because major changes are taking place and putting pressure on its resources. My report makes some recommendations for improvement. It points up the importance of IPB's role in strengthening the international perspective of the many organisations working locally and nationally on peace issues, at a time when a large-scale internationally-based civil society movement against war is badly needed.

IPB has just initiated a new project entitled *Development for disarmament*. This is a very timely initiative which focuses on the disparity between global military spending and development spending. It will involve a campaign to shift resources to development. I expect that MAW will make a valuable contribution to this by lobbying in Britain and working with international NGOs. While in Geneva, I also had discussions on *Global Priorities* which is a new US-based international project also aimed at changing national budget priorities, directing more monies towards development.

Both these projects are directed towards the improvement of human security (in its widest sense) and, in this regard, it was valuable to hear Mary Kaldor discussing the Barcelona Report at the recent House of Commons lecture organised by MAW (pages 4 and 5). Importantly she explained how NGOs, like MAW could assist by promoting the concept of the European 'Human Security Response Force'.

Meanwhile, our planning on the drama, CD and national peace map projects has been taking place. Remember that we are looking for assistance with all this so please contact us for more details if you think you could help. We are particularly looking for people who would like to take part in the drama production and this could be in any capacity.

May I also draw your attention to MAW events around Remembrance Sunday (page 2). On the Saturday we hold our AGM with some excellent speakers and on Sunday we host our regular lecture at the Imperial War Museum. This year's speaker is Shirley Williams.

Tony Kempster

The Movement for the Abolition of War

11 Venetia Road LONDON N4 1EJ Tel: 01908 511948 www.abolishwar.org.uk



REMEMBRANCESUNDAY



Remembrance Sunday this year falls on November 12th. That day, and the run up to it, is a time of great opportunity for everyone in MAW; a great opportunity to get some new thinking going.

As a small boy I well remember the guns firing from Hyde Park and the total silence which fell over the great city of London at 11 am on the 11th November every year. Sixty years later it is still an important national moment even though there has been a shift to the nearest Sunday. Red poppies are the order of the day. No politician or newscaster would be seen without one. Once again there will be medals on parade and plenty of nostalgic broadcasts.

This is just the right time for us, not to deny past culture which is so powerful, but to shift the direction away from past memories onto work for the future. If those millions of war graves could open up I am sure that 'put an end to war' would be the overwhelming message from all the victims of war everywhere, civilian as well as military.

It is a message which need not give offence. On the contrary, it makes sense to everyone today, especially as we once again experience the futility and horror of war.

MAW's relations with the British Legion and with the Imperial War Museum are good. This year Shirley Williams will be giving our annual Abolish War lecture in the Imperial War Museum at 2 pm on Remembrance Sunday.

At the local level there is much to do. Letters to local papers. Perhaps a showing of our DVD/video *War No More* and a discussion in clubs, pubs, and parish halls. Handing out MAW red badges with their very striking 'No entry' sign across 'War'.

Outside our local church last year, in front of the war memorial, we held a short and moving ceremony, open to all of any religion and none, involving those who have suffered war in many parts of the world: Nigerians, Palestinians, Israelis, Congolese amongst them, and of course Londoners with memories of World War II. We ended with a collection for British Legion welfare funds.

Let your imagination run on now. You don't have to organise some massive event to be interesting and newsworthy. A red wreath made up like the MAW badge and laid along with others at your local civic ceremony would get rather a different message over. Wear poppies but if you do, not one but two – one white and one red. Try to get your local church to use the new revised Remembrance Day service issued by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Royal British Legion. It has two new significant lines... **"Will you strive for all that makes for Peace? We will.**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity? We will."

There is plenty to do. Public attitudes do change and our task is to help that change to happen.

Bruce Kent



REMEMBRANCESUNDAY



BARONESS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

'AN END TO WAR?'

THE ANNUAL MAW REMEMBRANCE LECTURE
AT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, LAMBETH ROAD, LONDON, SE1
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th AT 2 PM

And don't forget to get your white peace poppies from: -
Peace Pledge Union
1 Peace Passage, London
N7 0BT

0207 424 9444 www.ppu.org.uk
Display box -100 poppies £40.00
25-Poppy Pack £12.50
10-Poppy Pack £6.00
5-Poppy pack £3.00
Postage & Packing £2.00
The message is worth every penny!

Don't leave it too late!

Start planning now. Think about what you will write to your local newspaper. Have your letter ready to send in good time for publication. Begin looking for suitable quotations or readings. Start talking now to your local churches. No matter if you're not a churchgoer - they will still welcome dialogue. And even if the church would like you to take part in the Remembrance service, it will still need time to consult with others like the local RBL branch. Should your peace group set up its own vigil or remembrance service? Make it open to all - and start inviting people now. War memorials belong to us all, and while we must be sensitive to others' feelings, and inform and invite everyone, we can use the memorials as the focus for our own remembering and desire for the end of war. If you leave this until November, you have left it too late!

The Skylark

The sky was an inverted blue bowl over the flat greenness of the marshland. As I walked the bridlepath in the spring sunshine, the song of the skylark drifted down from above. I looked up and found it, high up on fluttering wings, and my mind went back to a wartime Norfolk airfield on a summer evening in 1944.

I was twenty then, and with six other members of our aircrew, we were sprawled out on the grass beside our aircraft as the sun neared the distant horizon, waiting to begin another operation flight over German soil.

I remember a skylark hovering above us in the sky, pouring out its song, as if saying to anyone who wanted to listen – “Isn’t it good to be alive!”

To us below it was a wasted message. Would we survive this, our seventeenth operation? With thirteen more to go, we knew by the law of averages our luck was fast running out.

Our aircraft, a Stirling bomber, stood beside us like a huge black praying mantis. A war machine, without a conscience, it waited there, Dracula like, to embrace the coming darkness, and bring destruction to whatever lay in its path.

A green verey light arcs up over the airfield – our signal to prepare to take off.

We climb aboard our aircraft. Inside, stark and metallic, it reeks of high octane petrol. The door is closed and secured, we are encapsulated within the bowels of our war machine. The peace and quiet of the airfield is shattered by the explosive roar of starting aircraft engines. The skylark drops to earth to shelter fearfully in the long grass.

Our turn arrives to take off, the airfield drops away. Soon we are swallowed up in the darkness of the night, and set course for our other world of death and destruction.

Below us at the target area, the velvet black darkness is broken by the continuous flashes of exploding bombs. Soon a red sore develops in the darkness below. As the city burns the sore spreads, and seems to pulsate with a macabre intensity – in the flames below schools, hospitals, homes and families are being destroyed. This area of carnage is but one definition of the madness called war.

Above the target area, a vast, demented, murderously intent barrage of anti-aircraft fire begins to trawl our aircraft from the sky. They fall like autumn leaves into the inferno below. Some explode in the air, others fall in flames, as numerous searchlights sweep the menacing darkness.

These individual lances of white light capture their victims for the master searchlights – batteries of searchlights from which there is no escape. The captured aircraft, like silver moths, are soon plucked from the sky by the accurate radar-controlled anti-aircraft guns. Two aircraft collide as they leave the target, the flaming wreckage gyrating slowly earthwards. A searchlight almost catches us, its nearness lights up the interior of our aircraft as it sweeps past. Then the madness stops. The last bombs have fallen. The sky is free of gunfire. The searchlights become still sentinels of light, marking the site of yet another act of man’s inhumanity to man.

“Isn’t it peaceful here?” – It was a woman’s voice.

Peaceful here?

My mind clawed its way back to reality. “Yes,” I answered, as she walked past. “It is peaceful here.”

I closed my eyes, soaking up the peace of this other world. I felt solitary and alone – almost ashamed of being a survivor.

I looked up into the sky to find the skylark – but the skylark had gone.

Dennis Gill

*Dennis Gill served in the RAF as a bomber aircrew member. During 1944-5 he completed a tour of 34 operations over Germany. One of the targets was the city of Hamburg; his memories of that coupled with his anti-war feelings inspired him to write *The Skylark*. He sent us this piece some time ago, and at last there is space to share it with you all. And perhaps somewhere, on Remembrance Sunday, somebody will read it out to others.*



Among the Dead Cities

‘Was the Allied Bombing of Civilians in WWII a Necessity or a Crime?’

Readers may be interested in this book. *Among the Dead Cities* by A C Grayling (pub. Bloomsbury, 2006, £20) asks ‘what are the lessons we can learn for today about how people should behave in a world of tension and moral confusion, of terrorism and bitter rivalries.’

MAW will be producing an advert that can be placed in both national and local church magazines (contact editor for text if you wish to use it in your local magazine), and is also writing to church leaders promoting the inclusion of a mention of the abolition of war in Remembrance Day services. Christine Titmus is currently producing a booklet for use in services. Contact: christine.titmus@abolishwar.org.uk

Prayers for Peace

A weapon, however powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one; but no weapon can be superior to non-violence and love.

Jainist prayer

Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger.

Baha’i prayer

What is Human Security?

On July 12th at Portcullis House, Westminster, MAW played host to a talk given by Mary Kaldor. Titled 'Waging Law, not Waging War', it was organised by MAW's vice-chair Christine Titmus. In her introduction, Christine recalled that: *the late Sir Joseph Rotblat said: "War must cease to be an admissible human institution. The abolition of war must be our ultimate goal."* Although he is better known for being against nuclear weapons, he realised that important though disarmament was, the danger of annihilation would remain unless we rejected war itself. *When I first read the Barcelona Report I believed that here was exactly the evolutionary thinking, the visionary thinking that may help make that possible. When people say 'How on earth can we abolish war?' we can now say 'How about trying this?'*

Mary Kaldor is a Professor of Global Governance and Convener of the Barcelona Report. Following the publication of the European Security Strategy in 2003, a team of people were asked to look into and report on how the EU could achieve human security for Europe. The result was the *Human Security Doctrine for Europe* which suggests a positive way forward, away from the heavily militarised world we live in; a starting point for a world where individual states no longer have their own armies (used for their own interests), but where all states would finance, man and support an international body upholding, policing and enforcing international law, giving protection where needed, creating space for peaceful resolution in areas of conflict and working to identify conflicts in the making, so that solutions can be found before violence happens.



Mary Kaldor at Portcullis House

What is human security? It is individual rather than state security, and both mental and physical security. The most basic definition of this would be 'Freedom from fear and freedom from want'. Freedom from fear on the part of all the individuals that make up a state will help to create a state that feels secure. Freedom from want depends on individual livelihoods, so is linked to economics and development. This helps to create an economically secure state. At the moment states try to create a feeling of security by exercising their power, 'protecting their interests' militarily or by economically threatening other states. Yet no state will feel secure until *all* states feel secure. So we need to aim for individual or human security rather than state security, if we are ever to live at peace with each other. Security should also mean justice, respect for national law, the enforcement of International Law (where necessary over local law), and agreed norms of what is right or wrong.

The Barcelona report suggests the formation of a force made up, in the first instance, of 10,000 military and 5000 civilian personnel, provided by the states that make up the EU. It gives this force the name Human Security Response Force. This force, in a way similar to UN Peacekeeping Forces, would be sent to conflict areas. Preferably, through the use of on-the-ground monitors who would identify problems in the making, it would be on the scene before any conflict had turned violent. The civilian section would have trained negotiators, translators, educators, medical teams and so on – all the people so desperately needed on the ground when things go wrong. Normally these people go in after the fighting, to clear up the mess created by violent conflict. Here, they would go in with, and act alongside the military. The military would thus be following a totally different purpose to the one we are so familiar with, the key being it is not when or if you use military force, but *how*. The actions would in essence be governed by the civilian (rather than the state) goals of the local population on whose behalf the force had intervened. One of the key concepts in the report is that of **preventive engagement** - an 'expanded presence' - people on the ground designated (even when there is not a conflict) to act as witness to what is happening and report/monitor so that the early stages of problems are noted, and solutions sought. These 'human rights monitors' could work as the equivalent of the weapons inspectors. People in Iraq told Mary they felt safe when the weapons inspectors were involved; they felt that the situation was being watched and constrained. A non-threatening outside party was witnessing to what was going on.

The report gave 5 principles under which both the military and civilian sections of this force would act, from military action through negotiation, conflict resolution, elections, rebuilding etc. Mary suggested all personnel should carry a card with these principles on, to remind them of how they should act in any situation. The principles are:

Human Rights. This is the first area where the military will have to change its thinking. In a war situation there is a hierarchy governing the saving of life. First you save your civilians, then you save their civilians, then you save your military personnel. *Their* armies are last on the list. In *policing* a situation, all lives are equal. Another element in protecting human rights is that basic livelihood comes before the budgetary or economic interests of the state.

Politics. At present the military can't do politics; their aim is to 'win'. Under this system their aim would be to create the space for the formation and implementation of a legitimate political authority. That means, for instance, enabling the holding of elections where the electorate feel *entirely* free to vote for whom they please.

Operating within the rule of law. While respecting local law, the force has to abide by and uphold International

Law at all times, working within a multilateral framework, under a UN mandate. The structure would ensure that *any* and *all* who transgressed the laws would be brought to account. This one principle would differentiate this type of force from the peacekeeping forces that are sent in by the UN. It also starts the conversion of 'military' into 'police'. It is the beginning of a global law-enforcement body. And as the report says, the huge infrastructure of judiciary needed would be resourced by the release of our current heavy spending on military hardware/arms.

The 'Bottom-Up' principle. The force should consult and take the advice of the people on the ground, who always know better than incomers what needs to be done. They should be aware who is worth talking to. The British military are said to be good at talking to the locals. However, it was noticeable that in Iraq and Afghanistan they focussed on talking to local leaders and warlords. Power talking to power. A key principle is to talk to the women. Women's groups (and they exist in every section of society) tend to cross ethnic divides.

Regional Focus. Today's conflicts have no clear boundaries - they do not stop at state borders. Current peacekeeping, resolving a conflict in one state, often results in conflict appearing in a neighbouring area.. The Response Force will have to think both beyond state borders and within them. Any planning/action must take a holistic rather than a piecemeal approach, building links and cooperation between all parties.

This force would be totally independent of NATO. And while it would be working with a UN mandate, the resulting action would be very different to the present UN method of 'peacekeeping'. The UN does not have a standing force of any kind. Each conflict has the UN begging for nations to contribute, and often any help is too late. And if the force is made up of personnel from several countries, one nation will insist of taking command. If the EU could lead the way in creating a true and permanent peacemaking (and *non-national*) force along the lines suggested here, it would give encouragement to others. A public statement from the EU saying that this is the road it will follow would be popular with many, because it would show that EU defence policy is very different to that of the US. So, what is the attitude of the Foreign Ministries in the EU? Either 'We are already doing that' or 'Wildly Utopian'. We would question both statements. There are signs of hope. The Barcelona team have been asked to report to the Finns (holding the EU Presidency) who are interested in implementing the idea. The European Space Agency has also requested a report, as they can see a role for the future in providing the many layers of information that would be needed to foresee, prevent and sort out conflicts. They want to know the best way to prepare for that role.

Training would be essential. There are human security needs in many parts of the world, and conventional forces acting in conventional ways have not helped to resolve or address these needs. And at the moment military and civilian training are totally separate. This should change. *We* should change. The old ways don't work. The military in particular will have to rethink its approach, its training and its aims. But many military people are very positive about the Barcelona Report and would like to see it implemented. In some way, because governments have always relied on them to fight wars, they have become separated from the rest of society. The sense of alienation and defensiveness is heightened when they find themselves involved in action as unpopular as that in Iraq. And the military, like many peace activists, think that peace means the destruction of the military *now*. Because of that, they feel threatened by peace activism. In the Barcelona Report they see a way forward. It changes rather than destroys them. It gives them a valuable role for the future, a role that no longer means fighting wars, but is truly constructive. It will bring them back into society. It will also demand a great deal of them. Peacekeeping is difficult. It is far easier to drop a bomb than to stop bombs from falling. The active peace *making* visualised here would be even more demanding, but also much more rewarding for those taking part. The psychological damage caused to military personnel by conventional military action would be lessened; research has shown that soldiers deal better with the after-effects of violence when they are sure in their own minds of the justness of their action.

In time we will have not soldiers but policemen and women. In time we may learn to live with each other without fighting. In the meantime the Barcelona Report offers a halfway-house, one that can involve peacemakers and a reformed military. It won't be easy, changing centuries of automatic governmental and military responses that create as much conflict as they are supposed to resolve. But I think that it is now the time for peace people to help the military to change into a real force for good. How can we do this?

Read the Barcelona Report (you can find a pdf version on our website). Talk to your groups about it. If you can, dialogue with your local military bases – let them see there is another way for them. And write to your MP. Most MPs have not heard of the Barcelona Report, let alone read it. This may sound totally against your peace principles, but if we want the military to change, we will have to lobby on their behalf. Remember, 'At present the military can't do politics.' We can.

Editor

War is organised violence between states - *Mary Kaldor*

HIDDEN WOUNDS

I came across this book at the Tolpuddle Festival. Written by Aly Renwick, an ex-soldier and founder of the Troops Out Movement, it explores the history and reasons behind the mental and emotional damage suffered by soldiers, and catalogues the depression and violence that can follow a return to 'civvy street'

by those who served in Northern Ireland. Well written and a painful read, it is a good source of facts for campaigners. Citing the harm done to our *own* soldiers (rather than that to the other side) is a powerful argument when used for persuading people with military connections to join our campaign to abolish war.

Hidden Wounds by Aly Renwick - Price £4.99 P&P £1
From TOM, PO Box 1032, Birmingham, B12 8BZ

News & Views

Money Down the Drain!

This was the slogan that Robin Brookes of the Peace Tax 7 used when he paid his tax (under protest) in Swindon on May 5th. Robin has withheld part of his income tax every year since the start of the Iraq war, and he feels that taxes paying for war are morally wrong, and amount to money down the drain. About 30 of us supported him in a march through the shopping centre before we went to the Inland Revenue Office for Robin to make his payment under protest. Each of us carried some of Robin's tax in the form of £20 notes, plus placards saying what we would prefer our taxes to be spent on. (Quite a few of us chose to pay some of Robin's tax for him, and Robin donated this money to a charity of our choice.) Robin himself had made a mock drain for the money to go down in, so your editor attended with her sink plunger and a placard saying 'Unblock the Way to Peace'. We were joined by Lis Davidson from Liverpool, who was mounting her own Peace Tax protest in Liverpool on May 23rd. Outside the IR building, Robin read out his letter of protest which we all endorsed by signing, and we each put our £20 into Robin's drain. The protest then took on an element of farce. The IR no longer accepts money at this office, so while most people mounted a vigil outside the IR, Robin, carrying his drain, myself with my plunger, Cath Saunders with her Peace flag and Simon Bridewell with his camera all went round the corner to a post office to pay the money in. This turned out to be a very tiny sub-post office, and the four of us plus one other customer completely filled the place up. Robin then had to open the drain and we took the money out note by note, to be paid in, to a bemused man behind the counter. Robin collected his proof of payment and we left. Curiously, Peace Tax 7 and MAW leaflets had found their way into the Post Office leaflets on the counter!

Back at the IR building we found that the policemen who had been deputed to accompany us had got bored and gone away. Robin delivered the letter of protest and proof of payment to the IR office. His supporters were very firmly kept out on the pavement and Robin himself was only allowed as far as the front desk. But, as he said afterwards, 'It was well worth doing.' On our march through the streets we were often stopped by people asking what we were there for and when we explained, just about everybody agreed with what we were doing, particularly some young lads that we spoke to. And as the event received good press coverage (including Western Daily Press, Indymedia and local radio stations), many people are now more aware of how their taxes are being used for war. www.peacetaxseven.com

Lesley Docksey

WAR DOES NOT WORK

Sunday 30 September - Sustainability Centre, nr. Petersfield
Peace day with Martin Bell, Jo Wilding and Harry Holmes
Contact South East Hants Peace Council for details:
vida@greencottage.ndo.co.uk

War is the sorrow and war is the crime,
It stole my future, destroyed your time.
It took my father and killed your wife,
Scarred her child and changed his life.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

A Remembrance Ceremony for UN Peacekeepers was held at the Cenotaph on 31st May 2006, attended by over 60 Heads of State who laid wreaths with moving tributes to the many peacekeepers whose lives have been lost in recent war-torn areas, with prayers being said by an Imam and Army Chaplain.

The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) (an adjacent charity-based NGO) hosted an important conference that day for the same VIPs entitled Keeping today's international peace: a job for more than the military. LORD COBBOLD, its director, said that in future interventions the military role will decrease, while civilian peacekeepers will increase.

KEES STEENKEN, Swedish Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Advisor, said that we have to prepare 'from conflict prevention to nation rebuilding' with peacekeepers, reminding us that in Bosnia alone there were 580 NGOs as well as UN, EU, NATO and State Missions, plus international police units from most major states, all stakeholders in the confused, clustered post-conflict space. A major question is **how can we ensure security for peacekeepers who do not want military protection?** Most civilian peacekeepers need training for working with war-torn societies, but neither this, nor rules of conduct are consensually standardised.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL PUGH, Dept. of Peace Studies, Bradford University, asked **what is the economic context of peacekeeping?** He believed that we should avoid enforcement of particular concepts of development and tolerate different kinds of economic organisation which are different from Western models, noting that Bosnia still has 70% unemployed.

STEFAN FELLER, Head of EU Policing, involved in a Civilian Crisis Management project, said that in non-stabilised situations the military and police share legal responsibilities for maintaining order but wanted co-ordination with civilian peacekeepers ('synergy between components') so that the former's initial over-all authority was temporary until it could be transferred to civilian control. A police head of a British unit in Iraq said that **30-40 kidnappings of Iraqis per week** was now a current problem, caused by the organised criminal (rather than political) sub-culture, who always got ransom money from their middle class compatriots; the double tragedy was that it was these educated but terrified families who then sought asylum outside Iraq, rather than staying to provide the bedrock of the hoped-for emergence of democracy. After my contribution (from the floor) about my experience with low level conflict resolution/mediation services, an ambassador from one of the developing countries asked me if I could start such a service in his country, but I think he hoped that ADR could be used to suppress conflict of dissident groups rather than to provide the non-adversarial peacemaking which is our community model!

I also asked Lord Cobbold if RUSI could have, instead, a title with a focus on peacekeeping as he had so eloquently spoken of its vital importance, and he said he would ask his Board!!! Wait in hope! Meanwhile I was grateful for the inspiring work of UNA in arranging such an impressive day about peacekeeping with such influential speakers for an influential audience.

Dr Yvonne Craig

Peace is the blessing, the good long sought,
Peace is the treaty, the battle unfought.
Joining our hands, and with hearts less sore,
We look down the road to the end of war.

Lesley Docksey

“Unless we dismantle militarism our attempts to address climate change and poverty will be in vain.”

Christine Titmus, the vice-chair of MAW, was the guest speaker at a concert held by Musicians Against Nuclear Arms, at Lauderdale House, Highgate, London, on Sunday June 18th. The concert featured Ruth Underwood on flute and Margaret Lion on piano. This short talk took place after the interval, and the theme was the need for peace, poverty and environmental activists to inter-relate their messages because ‘global security’ relies on a more concerted effort across all three areas.

We are at a moment in time when the world is at last starting to pay attention to two of the main threats facing humanity. Global warming and the crisis of poverty and injustice. In the light of this, I believe nuclear activists need to re-position themselves, on two main fronts:

First, by communicating how these two issues, and our own issue, are strongly inter-related.

Second, by using the crisis of global warming as an example of how dire consequences may result if we too are ignored the way environmentalists were for decades. Let’s consider this in more detail

The makepovertyhistory campaign made huge headway in raising awareness and the global warming crisis seems to be finally reaching the parts it hasn’t previously reached. The point I want to make is they are both being taken seriously *at last* by those outside campaign groups – even by those previously in firm opposition. Only two weeks ago a delegation of businesses petitioned Tony Blair to do more to stop companies contributing to global warming. John Cridland, Deputy-General of the CBI, has said: ‘A stable world climate is even more vital to companies than a stable economic climate.’ We need to make it clearer, that we will never be very effective in addressing poverty and environmental devastation, without tackling the third most serious issue: militarism, and it’s pride and joy – nuclear weapons. We **MUST** communicate a more joined-up vision!

It was very timely, as I prepared for this talk, that on June 12th the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported its findings for military spending last year. Also on this date, the Oxford Research Group published ‘*Global Responses to Global Threats : Sustainable Security for the 21st Century*’.

These two make clear that unless we dismantle militarism (and nuclear weapons are the ultimate expression of that) our attempts to address climate change and poverty will be in vain. Global military expenditure rose in 2005 to one point one trillion in current US dollars. The latest figures for aid spending are from 2004, when the world spent \$87.3bn on aid (in current US \$). The world currently spends over 12 times as much on the military as on overseas aid. It is not a shortage of resources preventing the richer nations from addressing climate change and poverty. We need to emphasise the environmental precedent of ignored warnings.

The tree huggers, the early recyclers, the down-shifters, – all met with disdain or ridiculed by business, politicians, the public, the media - well now their very ungreen chickens are finally coming home to roost. The arguments, the research, the diagnosis and the prognosis from those fringe hippie types, *it was all true!* Spelled out in these terms, I think the imperative to disarm

our nuclear weapons may well gain new attention.

So many bodies work on all these fronts – and all need to inter-relate their messages. Let’s really emphasise the underlying links between these three issues, the way that addressing – or neglecting - one affects the others considerably. Let us all embrace this wider vision in speaking from our particular ‘campaign corner.’ Because there are still too many who believe in helping the poor but continue to hurt them by driving their SUV’s, flying often without a thought, believe nuclear weapons are a ‘good thing’. Change is starting to happen by small, tentative degrees – the environmental lobby has linked on nuclear weapons to devastation of the environment, and on how climate change will cause greater suffering to the world’s poor. The poverty lobby now sometimes refers to arms trade issues, and climate change.

So, *our* campaigning must relate nuclear weapons – and militarism itself - more strongly to poverty and the environment. The ORG’s report and the Stockholm report are excellent vehicles to help us do this. Jeremy Leggett, who wrote the book *Half Gone*, about the oil crisis, says this: ‘It pains me deeply to see all the things that Greenpeace and other environmental groups warned about in 1990, being accepted as fact today. At the time we were dismissed as scaremongers and naïve wishful thinkers.’

Surely the Iran crisis is a grave example of what retention of nuclear weapons, against all our warnings, will lead to: what did the world expect? I am just surprised such a crisis has taken so long – the *roots* are not with Iran itself, but with the world’s failure to nuclear disarm under the NPT. As long as we keep the main tumour fed, new cancers will spring up. A surgical strike or chemotherapy for Iran will not save us.

Finally, where is the Movement for the Abolition of War in all this? We see nuclear weapons as a symptom of humanity’s acceptance of waging war. As long as we believe in the use of domination and threat to get what we want, the world will want to keep a tight grip on its nuclear weapons – or an equivalent.

We are at a moment in time when the world is starting to see that merely tinkering around with aid and charity for the poor, or with the symptoms of climate change, will not do. These threats to our survival will grow and grow unless we tackle their roots and their causes. So with nuclear weapons. War itself is the root. While we continue to see war as justifiable, effective, useful, necessary, this is bound to lead us to a nuclear holocaust sooner or later. The whole system of war relies on having a bigger stick for next time. Now we’re in possession of the biggest stick ever – and I’m in no doubt that someone, somewhere, will use it ‘next time.’

Our Human security relies on a clear understanding of how these three global threats are related. We can only avert global disaster by a co-ordinated effort across them all.

Caring well for the earth and all her life support systems is vital to human security. The world is beginning to see that ...

Food, water, shelter, education, justice for ALL are vital to human security. The world is beginning to see that ...

A nuclear-weapons free (and ultimately war-free) world is vital to human security.

Let us make sure the world finally begins to see that, too.

Christine Titmus

(Information the Stockholm International Peace research Institute and the Oxford Research Group reports are available from:

christine.titmus@abolishwar.org.uk)

The more I study the history of the world the more I am convinced of the inability of brute force to create anything durable. *Napoleon on S. Helena*

UPDATES

THE PEACE MAP - Information is slowly coming in. MAW will be setting up a website soon, and sites will be listed on this as they come in. We need volunteers - can you or your local group be responsible for collecting information on sites in your area/county? We can send you a form to fill in for each site. Please get involved! Contact Lesley - details on back page.

THE CD - The production of the CD to follow Sing the Music of Healing is now underway.

THE PLAY - Still on the agenda, but it is taking time to formulate a plan of action that can be used to attract funding.

THE TRIDENT CAMPAIGN

Faslane365, the campaign to blockade Faslane for a year is on track. Groups are signing up to be present for 2 days each. These include Quaker groups and at least one group made up of doctors and nurses. [Training days put on by Faslane365 are a must for participants.](#)
See: www.faslane365.org

MAW PUBLICITY AND SALES

As you know, MAW produces some excellent resources for getting the 'abolish war' message out to the public. They are suitable for personal education, for sharing ideas with local groups, in the classroom and for campaigning.

But none of them are going to have any effect if they remain here in cardboard boxes! We need your help to promote and pass them on.

With this issue of ABOLISH WAR comes a leaflet listing all the items which can be purchased from MAW with an explanation of how to order. Please do not think of this just as a list which may or may not be of interest to you.

Every supporter of MAW can help to spread the basic message that war is not inevitable. One good way to do this is to buy up a stock of MAW materials and then sell them on - or give them out. The badges, in particular go like hot cakes, especially with the young.

Sale or return is really too complicated to organise but don't worry - if you do get landed with goods you cannot move we will always take them back at cost.

Not all of us can take part in public activity, demonstrations or debates. But

everyone can be a MAW messenger. So please decide to use the order form today.

Remembrance Sunday and week are not too far away - a very good time to suggest that the best way to honour the victims of war is to work towards the abolition of war itself.

LOOKING BACK -

Spotted on the Guardian Letters Page - 27/05/06

'Last year, using the Guardian Guide, I kept a list of second world war films and documentaries on the five main channels. My totals were: BBC1, 9 films and 8 documentaries; BBC2, 26 and 48; ITV, 4 and 10; C4, 34 and 20; C5, 10 and 13. That's about 180 in one year. For TV executives, the war is never over.'

Will Melling, London

Suggested Action:

Remember the piece about Henry Richards in the last issue of Abolish War? Write to the TV companies asking for a programme for prime-time TV) on Richards and the 19th Century Peace Movement. It would make a fascinating and inspiring documentary. If enough of us write and ask for this, they just might take note and oblige!

And with the history of peace activists in mind:

LOOKING FORWARD -

Peace History Conference

Friday/Saturday 13/14 April 2006
So far this is not much more than an idea at conception stage.

MAW, in partnership with the International Peace Bureau, hopes to have a two day peace history conference next year in London just after Easter.

Dr. Peter van den Dungen of Bradford University, who gave an inspiring talk for MAW in April this year, and Dr. Verdiana Grossi of Geneva University, an IPB consultant, have both said that they would be willing to take part. Both are enthusiasts and experts.

We want and *need* to find out more about some of the great peace makers of the past - Henry Richard, Bertha von Suttner and Sean MacBride to name just a few.

We want to learn more about the successes and failures of the 19th century, of the

League of Nations and of the ideas and work that led to the creation of the United Nations.

We have much to learn from the efforts of those who have gone before. For instance, how did the League of Nations Union manage to organise the amazing Peace Ballot of 1934 which canvassed the opinions of about ten million people in this country? We need to educate ourselves about these things - let's make a start here.

Dr. Grossi is an excellent and interesting speaker. If you would like to organise a meeting for her in your area or to suggest ideas about the content and format of the proposed London conference please get in touch with Bruce Kent.

(If you don't have Bruce's contact details, contact the editor and the message will be forwarded.)

WAR NO MORE

By Robert Hinde and Joseph Rotblat.
(2003, Pluto Press. £10.99)

The terrible conflict in the Middle East has alerted us again to the unspeakable horrors of war. Professor Robert Hinde and the late Joseph Rotblat examine the factors that contribute to conflict, and discuss how to approach a peaceful future. They stress eliminating the gap between rich and poor, effective arms controls, and above all education. An important book for NGO's and grassroots movements. Available from MAW, booksellers or Amazon.com. All proceeds go to further world peace.

INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT

As one of our speakers (Carne Ross) at the AGM is from this organisation, here is a little information about them: -

Independent Diplomat (ID) is a unique new venture in the world of diplomacy and international relations. Founded in 2004, ID is a non-profit advisory group which offers advice and support in diplomatic strategy and technique to marginalised, poor and inexperienced governments and political groups. Their objective is to establish a worldwide network of expertise and advice from experienced diplomatists, lawyers and other experts. ID is active in Kosovo, Somaliland and Western Sahara, and they are developing projects in the Middle East, central Asia and south east Europe.

Find out more about them on their website: www.IndependentDiplomat.com

Comment on the aftermath of war

They make a wilderness and call it peace - Tacitus

School kids strike 10 Downing Street!

A year six class got the chance to tell the government what they really think about guns in the run up to the UN summit on Small Arms in New York (26 June – 7 July). Comedian Mark Thomas and pupils from Pilgrims Way primary school in Southwark, south London, handed in a peace petition signed by more than 4,000 children to 10 Downing Street.



*The children, their sculpture, the petition, their teacher Joanne Farguhar and Mark Thomas outside the gates to Downing Street.
(Photo - Christian Aid)*

The petition was organised by Christian Aid's children's website www.globalgang.org.uk which invited 8-12-year-olds to send a message of peace to Tony Blair and George Bush. "The point of the petition is to tell the prime minister that fighting isn't the way to solve problems," said Rebecca Rothwell, 10 Margaret, Rebecca's mum, said: 'I hope Rebecca will never come across guns in her life, but I know that at some point she will. Since the project started Rebecca's learned that in some countries kids are forced to use guns in wars, but she's lucky, because she has a choice.'

One of the group who took the petition to number 10 was Esther Shobande, 10. 'It was really exciting to take the petition up to the door,' she said. 'I think Tony Blair should listen to me because I'm a kid.'

Raymond Gborie, 10, was equally proud to be part of peace petition. 'I'm going to tell all my friends I came here, but they'll think I'm lying. I've never been to Downing Street before, it looks bigger on the telly!' Raymond knows exactly what he wants the prime minister to do. 'I think Tony Blair should close all the gun shops and then people wouldn't be able to buy guns anymore.'

Sophie Shirt, editor of Global Gang, felt the petition had a huge impact. 'We often receive emails from kids saying they are concerned about fighting in the world,' she said. 'Many of them feel like there's nothing they can do, so the petition was a chance for them to get their voices heard.'

Along with the petition, the kids created a dove sculpture which they made out of their own toy guns. Comedian Mark Thomas thought the sculpture was 'amazing' and joined the school children as they handed in the petition.

He was very impressed by the kids he met: 'It's incredible what they have done. It's important that kids understand we can make a difference if we all work together.'

What's next? The pupils' teacher, Joanne Farquhar, said: 'The kids have learned that once you hurt someone you've hurt them – there's no taking it back. Year six is now going to take the dove sculpture around all the classes in school and organise workshops.'

When I spoke to Joanne she told me how enthusiastic her pupils had been about their Dove sculpture and all that it symbolised. If they had control over guns, she said, they would be far stricter than adults. According to them, 'People shouldn't have guns in the first place'. Well, that's obvious, but so many adults only see that *after* the world has become awash with guns. Children are much more direct, so quick to go to the heart of the matter.

I think they probably find it difficult to understand the hypocrisy of the adult world that allows the manufacture and selling of guns while talking of peace. Another thing they found hard to understand was that, having proudly taken their sculpture along to Downing Street with the petition, they were not allowed to go up Downing Street to Number 10 with it. Security of course! As if a few children and a dove made of toy guns was a serious threat to the government. Although, perhaps they were, but not as a matter of security, more as a matter of pricking consciences.

The sculpture is now on display at the school, and as we spoke the children were all busy writing letters to Tony Blair about not being allowed to take their sculpture to his door, asking him to visit their school and see their dove – and perhaps to answer some of their very pointed questions. I wonder – will he dare? Editor

Our sincere thanks to Christian Aid and Pilgrims Way Primary School for this story. You can find out more about the Pilgrims Way Primary School on: www.pilgrimsway.southwark.sch.uk

If you have children or grandchildren, then get them to check out the Christian Aid children's website: www.globalgang.org.uk. And encourage them to start something for peace at their own school.

'SEARCH FOR PEACE'

**Mystery Walk around the sites
on the London Peace Trail
Fun for children age 4-14 and their
families/group leaders**

Sunday 8th October

**Meet 11-12 noon at Friends House, Euston
Finish 4-5pm at Imperial War Museum**

**For more info: MAW 01908 511948
contact@abolishwar.org.uk**

War is the wickedest of all living human institutions, and it is also an institution to which human beings cling with obstinate tenacity. *Arnold Toynbee*

In his book *Experiences* the distinguished historian Arnold Toynbee (1889-1975) made a powerful and moving plea for the abolition of war:

"Living when and where I have lived, and having had the education and experience that I have had, I have been concerned above all, since August 1914, to do what I can in my lifetime towards bringing about the abolition of war. This is the wickedest of all living human institutions, and it is also an institution to which human beings cling with obstinate tenacity. In 1914, war could take lives only by the million. Since 6 August 1945 it has been on the way towards becoming deadly enough to wipe out the human race and perhaps even to make the surface of our planet no longer habitable for any form of life...

Though a freak chance disqualified me for combatant service in the First World War, I have been brought face to face with the wickedness of war from August 1914 onwards. Before August 1914, most people in Britain, with the signal exception of the Quakers, were morally obtuse to this wickedness, though we had been engaged in enough 'little wars', and aggressive little wars at that, to have had our eyes opened if we so willed. If we had not still been blind, my parents would never have let me play murder by knocking over toy soldiers with shots from toy cannon, and I myself should never have taken pleasure in this unpleasant game.

Since August 1914 we can no longer plead invincible ignorance. Before the end of the First World War, half my contemporaries had been killed; but I was not an eye-witness of their deaths, and it is what one has seen with one's own eyes that impresses one's imagination the most deeply and haunts one's memory the most persistently. Accordingly, the two visual memories that stand out in my mind the most vividly whenever I think of war are not the

faces of my dead friends; they are the faces of three people who were strangers to me.

In 1915, soon after I had left Oxford for London to do war-work there, I was sent on some errand to the War Office in Whitehall. As I was entering, I saw, facing me, a notice-board on which there was posted a list of officers recently reported killed, and, at the same moment, two women passed me. They had just read on the board the announcement of a death. One of the two was weeping bitterly; the other was talking rapidly and emphatically - as if her hurrying words could overtake and perhaps retrieve the cruel loss that had been suffered by her companion. I can see those two poor women's faces as clearly today in my mind's eye as, on that day, I saw them in the life. While I still have life and strength, I must work for the abolition of the wicked institution that was the cause of that terrible sorrow.

My second visual memory is of the dead body of a young Greek soldier, killed in March 1921 at the second battle of Inonu. The body was rigid; the face was waxen; the tiny perforation-mark in the forehead seemed too insignificant a cause to have extinguished a life instantaneously. The dead boy was lying a few yards below the Turkish trenches on the crown of the ridge which the boy's unit had been storming. In the trenches there were the bodies of Turkish peasants - brave 'embattled farmers' - that had been horribly mutilated by Greek shell-fire. These young men, Greek and Turkish, had all been brought into the world by the birth-pangs of mothers; they had been nurtured with love; and now they had been taken to be slaughtered on the threshold of manhood. I must work for the abolition of the wicked institution that was the cause of this criminal destruction of the most precious thing on Earth."

Experiences, by Arnold Toynbee, OUP 1969

Sent in by Jeremy Mitchell

MAW TO BUY

MAW TO BUY	BOOKLETS	The Hague Appeal '99. 50 Steps on the Way to the Abolition of War	50p
		The Final Surrender -Time to Abolish war. Quotations from around the world.	50p
		A World Without War - Professor Rotblat's Imperial War Museum speech, 2002	30p
		A Peace Trail Through London - places associated with peace-making , by Valerie Flessati	50p
		The Life of Bertha von Suttner - the first woman to win the Nobel Peace prize	£2.00
	POSTCARDS	'I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask - 'Mother, what was war?'	15p
		Girl with flower facing soldiers with bayonets	15p
		MAW's banner in full colour "War=Poverty=War"	15p
		'Multiply Peace' - each letter carries a peace message	15p
	A4 CARD	The Preamble to the UN Charter	15p
	DVD(14 mins)	War No More - with teacher's booklet (Still some videos available £8*)	£10.00
	MAW CD	Sing the Music of Healing	£8.00
	BOOKS	War No More (paperback) Rotblat/Hinde	£11.00
		Warfare or Welfare - Colin Archer IPB Sec. General	£5.00
	BADGES Metal	Red with a 'No Entry' sign across War	Large (2") 40p Small (1") 15p
MAW PUBLICITY	Information leaflets and A3 posters	Free	

POSTAGE Please add 20% to the total cost of order. Postage is free for orders of £20 and over
 CHEQUES Please make payable to MAW

Please send order to: MAW ORDERS, 11 Venetia Road, LONDON N4 1EJ

LETTERS

Commemorating

International Conscientious Objectors Day

From Edna Mathieson of the Right to Refuse to Kill Group (RRK)

During a meeting with Bruce Kent, we discussed the possibility of setting up a loose network of people – meeting perhaps twice a year – who celebrate, or would like to celebrate International Conscientious Objectors Day, May 15th, with broadly similar events in their own towns and cities. Such a network would provide mutual support and an exchange of ideas as well as other benefits. The RRK in London include in their supporting organisations Pax Christi, the British Humanist Association, the Women’s League for Peace & Freedom, the Peace Pledge Union, Christian CND, the National Secular Society and Amnesty International.

In London RRK holds an event, at midday each May 15th, around the stone that the Peace Pledge Union and I set up in 1994 – unveiled by the late Michael Tippett – in Tavistock Square. This commemoration lasts for about 45 minutes. There is a short speech, and an update on conscientious objection by Amnesty International. A poem or piece of prose may be read, and a song (written by a member of RRK) sung. Then 50 white carnations are laid on or by the stone, one by one, each with the name of a Conscientious Objector attached, and as each carnation is laid, the name and a few personal details of the C.O. are read out. When all 50 carnations have been laid, a minute’s silence follows.

Cardiff holds a similar event around their slate obelisk in Cathays Park. Both Birmingham and Manchester have held commemorative events in their respective peace parks, and Bristol hope to set up some kind of commemorative object, as do Oxford.

Please contact me if you would be interested in meeting to establish a network. You might at the same time consider, if you haven’t already, holding some kind of event in your town or city. I have talked about RRK and how we went about setting up our stone in several parts of the country, and if knowing more about RRK would help, I would be

willing and very happy to either come to any meeting you set up, or to answer your questions over the phone. I look forward to hearing from you.

Edna Mathieson,
0207 237 3731 edna.mathieson@btopenworld.com

We Must be Doing Something Right!

The other day I received this by email:

The Movement for the Abolition of War is such a pillar of strength to me and my work as a peace practitioner in South Africa ...

I have said this before, but will say it again, the short film WAR NO MORE is such a hot favourite with South Africans nobody gets enough of it, including the Department of Foreign Affairs who attended our recent public screening of the film. They have requested a copy thereof and I made one available to them.

Do you have any more such short films?

Chemist Khumalo
National Director, The Ceasefire Campaign

Well, have we? And if not, why not?

And a Warning from Michael Snellgrove, Cambridge

Perhaps you could put a little warning in the newsletter about misguided attempts.

It seems so hard to get our material given wider respect. I mistakenly gave a *War No More* video plus the Guidelines to my Central Library as a gift. On checking out after two years how it had fared, I got a letter to the effect that it had been put straight in the bin!

Poor Michael. Perhaps we should all live in South Africa! But seriously, it’s upsetting when one’s good intentions are treated so carelessly. My advice to him, and to anyone thinking of getting our books, videos and DVDs into libraries is not to donate, but to keep asking them if they stock the item in question. If you can organise enough individual people to go in with a request for War No More, sooner or later they’ll have to stock it. And that means they will have to pay for it too!

Editor

Please send me further information
NAME
ADDRESS
.....
TOWN
COUNTY POST CODE
TEL:
E MAIL

Yes, I’d like to become a member
I would like to make a regular standing order payment
I enclose a cheque for £.....

Yearly rates £15 Individual £5 Unwaged £20 Household (2 persons)
£25 Group/organisation £100 Life membership

Please make cheque payable to MAW and send to
Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Rd., LONDON N4 1EJ
Or join online: - www.abolishwar.org.uk

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN MAW!

Our aim: to create a world where war is no longer seen as a way to solve a problem; where it has ceased to be an option; where conflict resolution means resolution, not more conflict. We have the tools, the skills and the laws that we need. We also need you. We work through education and dialogue, both nationally and in our own local communities; ordinary people taking action to realise our goal -

THE ABOLITION OF WAR.

Events Diary

21 September WORLDWIDE. International Day of Peace.

23 September MANCHESTER. Time to Go national demonstration. End the Occupation of Iraq; Don't Attack Iran national - called by Stop the War Coalition and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament - on the eve of Labour Party Conference. For more info contact: Ben 0207 700 2393 or campaigns@cnduk.org

29 September LONDON. The MANA Chamber Orchestra at St. James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1 starting 7.30 pm. Concert with guest speaker. 020 8455 1030

29 September – 1 October STROUD. Seven Steps on the Way of Peace, Spiritual Search and Practical Peacemaking. Hawkwood College, Stroud. For info: Chris Clarke 023 80552546 or cclarke@scispirit.com

30 September Nr. Petersfield War Does Not Work with Martin Bell, Jo Wilding, Harry Holmes. Contact SE Hants Peace Council for details: vida@greencottage.ndo.co.uk

1 October LAKENHEATH. Day of Action Against NATO/US Bases and Nuclear Weapons in Europe. Demonstrate at USAF Lakenheath where the US holds over 100 nuclear weapons. For more information: Mell Harrison 01986 892 723

1 October FASLANE. Start of Faslane 365 blockade. www.faslane365.org

1 - 8 October WORLDWIDE. Keep Space for Peace Week: International Days of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space. Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space www.space4peace.org

MENWITH HILL. 'Keep Space for Peace' at Main Entrance to NSA Menwith Hill

OXFORDSHIRE. Keep Space for Peace - No Bases for War 'RAF' Croughton from 12 to 3pm. Rally and Picnic, music, John McDonnell MP main speaker.

14 - 15 October BRADFORD. CND Annual Conference. 020 7700 2393 www.cnduk.org

15 October BRIGHTON. Peace is Possible. All-day Peace Party Autumn Conference at Friends Meeting House, Brighton. Speakers, discussion, music. Info: 01483 576400 www.peaceparty.org.uk

22 - 29 October EVERYWHERE. One World Week

22 – 29 October COUNTRYWIDE. Week of Prayer for World Peace

24 October WORLDWIDE. United Nations Day.

LONDON. United Nations Association Lobby of Parliament. See www.una.org.uk for details

27 – 29 October BIRMINGHAM. Called to be Peacemakers: Religious Rights and Wrongs in Contemporary Conflicts. Fellowship of Reconciliation Youth conference. Contact: martha@for.org.uk or 01865 748 796.

24 - 30 October EVERYWHERE. Disarmament Week.

27 October – 1 November BURY ST EDMUNDS. Peace Through Dance & Song. 5-day residential course. Use of cultural elements to help groups facing conflict. Culford, Nr Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Contact Jill Hope 01277 363085 or jrhope@onetel.com

11 November COUNTRYWIDE. Remembrance Day.

12 November COUNTRYWIDE Remembrance Sunday. For the Annual Remembrance Sunday Lecture from Movement for the Abolition of War see advert.

15 November GRASSINGTON. Open meeting of Grassington & District Peace Group. Guest speaker Professor Paul Rogers of Bradford University's Peace Studies Dept. Octagon Theatre in Grassington Town Hall. Contact Richard Hargreaves, Strand House, Hawkswick, Skipton BD23 5QA strand@hawkswick.net

18 November LONDON. WARFARE OR WELFARE World Disarmament Campaign Annual Conference. 10.30 - 4.30 at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London. Speakers include Shirley Williams. For information: editor.worlddisarm@ntlworld.com

25 November LONDON. Campaign Against Arms Trade National Gathering. 10am - 6pm. A day of talks, discussions and workshops. CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ. 020 7281 0297

1 December EVERYWHERE Prisoners for Peace Day. www.wri-irg.org

8 – 10 December LONDON. Fair Trade Fair. Westminster Central Hall, Parliament Square SW1

10 December WORLDWIDE. Human Rights Day.

1st Sunday of every month LONDON Walk in Peace Clare 020 8755 0353 or beatricemillar@freeuk.com

MAW NEWS PLEASE!

You want to read about events that are not all London-based. We want to hear from members around the country, and we want your actions to inspire others. So if you have organised events/actions, or are planning some, and would like to have them reported in the newsletter, then send the details to the editor: - Lesley Docksey, 1 Court Farm Cottages, Buckland Newton, Dorset DT2 7BT E-mail: Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk