ABOLISH WAR

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Newsletter of the Movement for the Abolition of War Issue 30, Winter 2014/15

Nuclear weapons 'will be redundant'

MAW vice-president Bruce Kent has taken part in a series of films from Talkworks entitled *Talking About Nuclear Disarmament*. In the films Bruce, described as "an honourable and irritating thorn in the nuclear establishment's side," traces the history of the nuclear disarmament movement and discusses what needs to be done for disarmament to be achieved. He also describes positive changes in society and the new global spirit which will mean nuclear weapons "just look redundant."

The films can be seen at www.talkworks.info/Talkworks_Films/Featured_interviews_November_2014.html

New Year membership drive - MAW needs YOU!

It's been a great year for the Movement for the Abolition of War and we plan to keep up the momentum in 2015 with even greater efforts to promote the message of peace.

But to do that we need to recruit more members!

With creeping military involvement once again in the Middle East, increasing tension in Ukraine and continuing injustice in Palestine, the need for opposition and alternatives to war is as clear as ever.

Two recent recruits - Hannah and Maddy

MAW provides that voice and we need all the support we can get. We need members to carry out activities, distribute literature, speak at public meetings and spread the message.

Our numbers have risen slowly in recent years - but we need more people to give MAW a louder voice.

We have many active people throughout the country and members are doing great work. But we would like more to help us reach our goal..

The new MAW chair Tim Devereux says: "We know there are many people who agree with our message but we need to make sure they hear it loud and clear.

"That means we need more active members who will distribute our paper *Abolish War*, speak at meetings or just discuss the issues with friends and relatives and persuade them to join.

"I hope that in 2015 we will continue to see our numbers rise so that we can become more effective in the campaign to make war a thing of the past."

The Movement for the Abolition of War – join us, or renew your membership

We 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. Working through education and dialogue, nationally and locally, we have the tools, skills and laws that we need, but we also need you - ordinary people can help us realise our goal, the abolition of war.

MAW members and affiliated groups: unless you are a life member, or joined after March 2014, your membership subscription for 2015 is due now.

Send completed form (and cheque if applicable) to: Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, LONDON N4 1EJ

Membership application / renewal

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Tel no. .....

Email .....

Type of membership (please tick):

Life £100 ☐ Individual £15 ☐ Unwaged £5 ☐

Household (2 or more at same address) £20 ☐ Group or organisation £25 ☐

I enclose: Membership £ .....

Donation £ .....

Total £ .....

Please make cheque payable to Movement for the Abolition of War

OR Please send me a standing order form ☐

Anti-war project from WILPF wins Lottery funding

***These Dangerous Women*, a new project by Clapham Film Unit and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has won Heritage Lottery funding.**

Amid the commemoration of the First World War, it is important to remember, celebrate and raise awareness of the many women who worked so hard to stop the war and prevent future conflicts.

A £30,000 award from the Heritage Lottery Fund will enable a *These Dangerous Women* documentary, book and exhibition to be created.

The story focuses on the Congress of Women held on 28 April 1915 in The Hague, when 1,300 women from 12 countries (warring and neutral) gathered to advocate for mediation between politicians to end the First World War and to propose methods for settling international disputes by peaceful means.

The project will be run by WILPF and voluntary groups involve archive research, re-enactments of scenes from 1915 and the recording of the oral histories of the descendants of those described by Winston Churchill as "these dangerous women".

● WILPF's 100th anniversary conference will be held from April 27-29, 2015 in The Hague and more details can be found on the website: http://www.womenstopwar.org/conference-home/

Keely Khoury

WOMEN'S POWER TO STOP WAR
a global movement of WILPF

Harry Patch song plan: 'let leaders fight it out'

MAW's successful 14 songs for 2014 will have a new lease of life in 2015.

Member Sue Gilmurray says: "Although it started out as *14 songs for 2014*, commemorations of World War One events are set to continue until the marking of the 1918 armistice in November 2018.

"I am planning to continue the project and add another song each year until there are 18 for 2018."

The new song for 2015 is likely to be *If I had my way*, a setting by folk singer and choir leader Polly Bolton of the words of veteran Harry Patch: "If I had my way, I would lock all leaders in a room and let them fight it out. Then there'd be no need for lads like me to go to war."

Sue has been asked if she can supply MP3 audio files of the separate voice parts of some songs, to help choirs who prefer to learn by ear.

Contact Sue if this would help your group at suegilmurray@icloud.com

Joey and Alex play *The Last Post* on whistle and concertina at an event hosted by Peace Action Durham on the theme Remembrance and MORE. The event was part of a nationwide initiative to mark the Centenary of World War One by playing the tune on different instruments. In Durham it was dedicated to the 13,000 soldiers of the Durham Light Infantry who perished in the war and the thousands more who were wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. The group recognised that the best way to honour their memory is to prevent wars starting in the first place.

Diary Dates

● **Portsmouth**, - Women in Black vigil at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, 11am-12noon, first Saturdays of the month.

● **North Yorkshire** - witness and protest outside the main entrance to the American base at Menwith Hill on the A59 Harrogate to Skipton road and nine miles from Harrogate, North Yorkshire, 6-8pm, on Tuesday evenings.

● **Oxford** - Twenty minutes' stillness will start or finish with a short reading or some brief practical guidance. Bring and share vegetarian lunch after this if you like. Peace House, 19 Paradise Street, behind the Oxford Castle visitor centre. At 1.15pm every Thursday.

● **Lincoln** - Drone watch vigil at the gates of RAF Waddington near Lincoln, the control base for the British Reaper drone. From 1pm to 3pm. By the main gate of the A607, on the 21st of December for the final time.

BRANCHING OUT: Children study the display at a street stall run by Kingston Peace Council in the town's marketplace.
Shoppers wrote messages of peace on paper doves which they then hung on a "peace tree". Children were particularly keen to participate and also were able to take away a wordsearch with a peace theme.
The busy Peace Council marked the International Day of Peace in September by visiting local schools to give assemblies – 13 primary schools and two secondary schools in total.
Zac Goldsmith, MP for Richmond Park, joined the assembly at Meadlands Primary School and was very enthusiastic. Happily, schools visited by Kingston Peace Council in previous years are now taking the idea forward themselves. For example, a special needs school where it gave an assembly last year held its own Peace Day assemblies this year and released doves. Well done Kingston.

MAW's new committee for the year ahead

Retired maths teacher Tim Devereux (pictured) has taken the reins as chair of *The Movement for the Abolition of War* following his election at the annual general meeting.
Tim pledges to try and expand the organisation's membership and make its voice louder and clearer.
He will be supported in his new role by joint vice-chairs Martin Aitken and Heather Speight with longstanding committee member Sally Reynolds taking on the duties of secretary. MAW welcomes Duncan Rees, elected as our treasurer.
Professor Robert Hinde remains President of the organisation with Martin Bell, Bruce Kent, Colin Archer and Christine Blower as vice-presidents.
Other officers are: Gill Hurle, membership secretary, Helen Riley, newsletter editor and Mark Whitehead, publicity officer. Other committee members elected at the AGM in London were Jacqui Burke, Sue Dowell and Barbara Mayhew.
Outgoing committee members, especially former chair Will Pritchard, were warmly thanked for all their efforts over the years.

MAW backs campaign against new Trident

MAW is one of the many organisations supporting the **Rethink Trident** campaign. The campaign highlights the fact that the £100bn which is earmarked for Trident replacement could be much more productively spent on a host of useful things – combating child poverty, easing youth unemployment, providing affordable homes or investing in the NHS, among many examples.
MAW secretary Sally Reynolds says: "Genuine global security will only be achieved through the abolition of nuclear weapons."
http://act.rethinktrident.org.uk/petition/1

Housmans: It's a date!

The 2015 Housmans Peace Diary , £8.95, has an article on *A Century of Women Resisting War* and is available on 020 7837 4473 or www.housmans.com/diary.php

Say 'No' to boy soldiers

What better way to commit our country to peace during the commemoration of World War One and remember the hundreds of thousands who died from the UK alone, including boy soldiers like Rifleman V J Strudwick, 15, who was killed at the age of15?
https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-recruitment-of-16-year-olds-into-the-uk-armed-forces
Paper copies:
http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Petition_Put-an-end-to-recruitment_2014project.pdf

Warhorse author sings for peace: Michael Morpurgo, right, delivered powerful thoughts mixed with songs and poems to a capacity audience at the MAW annual remembrance lecture at the Imperial War Museum. See the talk - *Who will sing the anthems? Who will tell the stories?* – here: vimeo.com/112172979. Thanks to Zoe Broughton and Christopher Bone who kindly filmed the event for us.

Actors, left, perform *Common Ground*, produced by Speaking In Tongues Theatre Company for the Peace History Conference held at the IWM in October.

Women put the legal case for ending war

Does international law have a part to play in getting rid of war?

I represented MAW at a *Round Table on the De-Legitimisation of War* held in The Hague in October and organised by Canadian Voices of Women for Peace.

Bringing together lawyers working in the ICJ, the ICC, the Permanent Court of Arbitration along with people from the peace movement internationally, the aim was to exchange experience and find points of contact. (Delegates are pictured above with Sally last on the right.).

The joy was to find that all the lawyers were warm, tough women determined to make a difference. Read about it here: www.abolishwar.org.uk/uploads/1/6/6/2/16622106/notes_for_maw_on_the_round_table_hague_oct_2014_c.pdf

Sally Reynolds

Timeline shows peacemaking through the ages

A Peace Timeline exhibition *Seeds of Peace*: *a colour illustrated peace timeline from 700 BC to 2100 AD* is available for borrowing.

It shows projects "sowing the seeds of peacemaking" over the centuries - in Britain and elsewhere - in the context of world events.

As well as an extremely useful source of often surprising information, it shows that peacemaking is not just a 20th/21st century idea and would be useful for group discussions or public displays.

The timeline comprises 14 landscape style separate flexible laminated sheets (A3) with some small illustrations on them, totalling 6m, with Velcro tabs on the back for attachment (no pins). In addition, there are 15 smaller individual landscape style laminated sheets (A4) with larger colour illustrations of particular people or events, totalling 4.5m in length, also with Velcro tabs, for use under the main exhibition.

Originally compiled by the Peace Museum Bradford, the timeline can be borrowed direct from Peter Nias, Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, Peace Studies, University of Bradford - PeterNias@aol.com - for the cost of postage, currently £9.10 each way including recorded delivery.

Please inquire for details, which will include a general photo of the whole exhibition.

A free emailed pdf version of the timeline only (not the A4 illustrations) is also available on request.

Abolish War

The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published on February 23, 2015 – send your news and views to helenriley@abolishwar.org.uk

***Abolish War* is published by the Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ.**