

On the agenda at the MAW AGM...

Everyone is welcome to the MAW AGM which will take place on Sunday, 13 November at 11.30am at the London Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ.

Please look out for directions at the main door for the AGM room. The nearest tube station - Lambeth North - is closed at the moment. Use Elephant & Castle or Waterloo instead, or you can use tube tickets on bus routes between the tube stations.

Following the AGM - and lunch - will be the annual MAW Remembrance Day Lecture at 3pm, this year given by Vickie Hawkins of MSF - see p4.



Members of MAW Youth (plus some more mature members of the MAW committee) attended the International Peace Bureau World Congress in Berlin, *Disarm! For a Climate of Peace* in Berlin. Maddy Ridgley (second left) reports on the conference on p3. Read all about it!

Follow MAW Youth at <https://abolishwarnow.wordpress.com>

Poetry Please: Lost Souls

*The real lost souls
Don't wear their hair long and play
guitars.
They have crew cuts and trained
minds,
sign on for research in biological
warfare
and don't give their parents a
moment's worry.*

J B Priestley

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The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published on February 1, 2017.

The right word in the right place – new MAW booklet

A new version of the successful MAW booklet, *The Final Surrender: Time to Abolish War*, is being planned. It was first produced in 1999 for the Hague Peace Conference and has a collection of quotations from various times, places and people about eliminating war.

The handy pocket-sized booklet is ideal for handing out at meetings or in schools.

Tim Devereux, chair of MAW, says: "It's time to refresh and update one of our most popular and useful publications. We are currently busy working on the new and updated booklet which members will find useful and hopefully inspiring."

The updated version will be published in the near future and will be available on MAW stalls and via our website -

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk>

There are also copies of our book, *Combat Stress*, available – a timely read following publication of the Medact report into the recruitment of child soldiers in the British Army (see p2).

http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/store/p34/Combat_Stress.html

Putting pen to paper

Our vice-president, Bruce Kent, recently had a letter published in *The Guardian*. And MAW secretary Sally Reynolds wrote to her local paper about the military presence at a local fun day. If you feel strongly about something follow their example and put pen to paper.

“Michael Fallon’s plan for 150 more school cadet corps raises more questions than answers (*A night in the field with a unit of Fallon’s school-age soldiers*, 8 October). How about Junior Red Cross units instead? Or work with Médecins Sans Frontières? Or as Senior Scouts?

If cadet corps are to have priority, then we must hope that the UN charter and the declaration of human rights will be on the agenda – and perhaps instructions about situations in which a soldier might have a clear duty to disobey orders.”

Bruce Kent

“Did anyone else feel the military presence at Abingdon’s ‘Fun in the Park’ day was rather obtrusive this year?

Not only were there two huge army recruitment vehicles on the market-place, with a BMX track and climbing wall staffed by uniformed reservists, but the centre of the Abbey Gardens area was filled with a large army vehicle covered in camouflage netting, a camouflaged army fitness centre, a bouncy castle staffed by soldiers and a jolly red-and-yellow recruitment centre advertising ‘Join here!’

Fun in the Park used to be a community event with homespun entertainment and home-made food and drink. Now local clubs are banished to the car park while the army takes the prime positions.

I say, let’s keep the army where it belongs - in barracks, in disaster areas or in war zones. Don’t bring war into civilian life. A soldier’s life is not all fun. War is not healthy for children. War is not children’s entertainment.”

Sally Reynolds

■ **Helping refugees: Citizens UK is one of the key organisations working to help refugees - find out more by visiting the website, <http://www.citizensuk.org>**

Alternatively several charities are involved such as save the Children, Oxfam and MSF.



Standing for peace: Participants are pictured at one of the workshops held during the successful event, *The Creeping Militarisation of our Society*. This MAW Youth conference on militarism in British society and its promotion by government in schools and universities took place in London on 8 October.

Medact highlights risks to child soldiers in the British Army

Recruiting children aged 16 and 17 into the British army places them at greater risk of death, injury and long-term mental health problems than those recruited as adults, according to a report from the charity Medact (Health Professionals for a Safer, Fairer and Better World).

The report calls for the minimum recruitment age to be raised to 18. Dr David McCoy, director of Medact, said: “Minimum age laws exist to protect children from smoking, drinking, driving and watching violent films. It’s time for the UK to fall in step with the vast majority of countries and raise the minimum recruitment age to 18.”

Child recruits to the British army are more likely to be deployed on the frontline once they reach 18. In Afghanistan, British soldiers who enlisted at 16 were around twice as likely to be killed or injured than soldiers who enlisted at 18 or over.

Child recruits are also more vulnerable to suicide, self-harm, post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol abuse than are older recruits.

Tim Devereux, chair of MAW, says: “Portraying military life as a glamorous choice and using terms such as ‘awesome armour’ and ‘big boys’ toys’ as recruitment terms, appeals to - and takes advantage of - adolescent mindsets. It does not represent informed consent.”

The Medact Report can be viewed at

<http://www.medact.org/news/recruitment-children-uk-armed-forces-critique-health-professionals/>

Insights and inspiration - Berlin helped build our youth network

MAW members attended the recent IPB conference in Berlin – including MAW Youth. Maddy Ridgley reports.

MAW Youth (Jen Harrison, Becky Garnault and myself) plus two competition winners - Ella Johnson and Khem Rogaly – found our trip to the International Peace Bureau World Congress very useful.

A common theme of many plenaries and workshops was the causes and effects of global military spending. Although conference strapline was the “The world is over-armed and peace is underfunded” (Ban Ki-moon), economist Samir Amin said it would be more appropriate to say “The West is over-armed” - Western countries account for 75% of global military spending (\$1.7trillion). This shocking figure is made worse when cuts to social and public services across Europe in recent years are considered. Although learning facts about global militarism was interesting and educational, we were keen to hear how systems and processes could be challenged. It was great to meet other activists such as the Global Campaign on Military Spending which fosters local, regional and national networks by linking issues around military spending to other campaign groups. Peace education was seen as vital, with both formal and non-formal education institutions teaching values of respect, non-violence, human rights and gender and racial equality. Amada Benavides from Fundación Escuelas de Paz

(Peace Education Foundation) spoke about how peace education had been vital in the peace process in Colombia to help people overcome the distrust, hatred and fear caused by the civil war.

Alongside speeches, panel discussions and workshops the conference featured a “youth gathering” where 20-30 young people met daily. It was brilliant to be able to discuss issues such as war, militarism, feminism and capitalism through a more youthful lens. An outcome was the establishment of an IPB youth network where we can share ideas and organise a conference in 2018.

MAW Youth ran a workshop focused on the militarisation of youth in the UK - particularly the expansion of cadet forces into schools. We encouraged attendees to think about the level of militarism in their own country. It was interesting to hear that Japan’s military has little interaction with the youth and also that in Germany many students have been successful in kicking the military off school and university campuses! The conference gave us new insights into global politics, helped us build networks with people of all ages around the world and gave us new ideas for future campaigns. Best of all it brought us a new Youth Committee member – welcome Khem Rogaly!

■ Thank-you to the generous MAW members who donated money which enabled MAW Youth to attend the conference.



A group in Leeds on the Peace Trail, led by Clive Barrett. In this picture they are hearing about the history behind Mandela Gardens, before attending the Peace History Conference.

War resisters paid a high price

MAW chair Tim Devereux reports on the Peace History Conference, held in Leeds, 13-14 October.

Conscience & Conscription: Resistance to War 1916 - 2016
We heard about the range of resistance by COs - from some accommodation with the state to the pure “absolutist” martyr. In Britain, many simply disappeared - the *Police Gazette* gave details of wanted men - in modern parlance, draft dodgers. Varieties of resistance over the century were outlined, for example, scientists refusing work on weapons and modern protesters taking court action against the state. The very different situation in Germany was also described. War resisters can pay a high price - and we need to persevere through the dark times!
(Text and/or Powerpoint versions of the speakers’ talks will soon be made available on the Peace History section of the MAW website: www.abolishwar.org.uk/peace-history.html)

Humanity in the face of war: MSF director delivers key MAW lecture

We are looking forward to seeing MAW members at the annual Remembrance Day Lecture which, this year, will be given by Vickie Hawkins (pictured), Executive Director of Médecins Sans Frontières in the UK. The lecture will be held at the London Imperial War Museum on Sunday, November 13, at 3pm. All are welcome to the free event. We thought it would be a good time to look back at the lectures over the years.

2001: Prof Paul Rogers, the University of Bradford - *Can we end war?*

2002: Prof Joseph Rotblat - *A World without War. Is it desirable? Is it feasible?*

2003: Mairead Corrigan Maguire - *War or peace, creating a new culture for children.*



Vickie Hawkins of MSF

2004: Dr Caroline Lucas MEP - *Building a culture of peace.*

2005: Martin Bell OBE - *A Requiem for war.*

2006: Baroness Shirley Williams - *An end to war.*

2007: Baroness Helena Kennedy QC - *Law not war.*

2008: Kathy Galloway, Iona Community - *Hope in a time of war: a religious perspective on peacemaking.*

2009: Dr Mark Levene, Southampton University - *Weapons of the strong.*

2010: Philippe Sands QC - *War and law: Iraq's legacy, Chilcot's challenges.*

2011: Prof Sir Richard Jolly, University of Sussex - *Disarmament and development, the kindest cut of all.*

2012: Prof Mary Kaldor, LSE - *Old and new wars.*

2013: Alastair McIntosh - *The Nonviolence challenge: challenging the culture of war.*

2014: Michael Morpurgo - *Who will sing the songs, who will tell the stories?*

2015: Prof Paul Rogers - *Future wars and how to prevent them.*

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.

To join MAW or renew your membership, complete this form or download the membership and standing order forms from our website at <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/join.html>.
Send the completed form (and cheque if applicable) to: Movement for the Abolition of War, 308 Walton Road, KT8 2HY

Membership application / renewal

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I enclose: Membership £
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To join or renew your membership complete the form in this newsletter or download the forms from our website at <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/join.html>. If you would like to receive email notification of the newsletter availability, instead of a hard copy, please email gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk

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Linking peace and climate

Havepeace's fourth annual exhibition, entitled *The Art of Peace - Global Warning*, attracted visitors to Haverhill Arts Centre in Suffolk. The exhibition is held annually to highlight the UN International Day of Peace (September 21). It featured original works of art and poetry, plus information about organisations working non-violently for climate security and peace - including MAW.