

Write now!

MAW invites school students in Years 10-13 to take part in an essay competition, submitting between 500 and 1,000 words on *Walking on the moon, still warring on earth* with three prizes of £50 Book Tokens. MAW will publish the winning essays on our website. Essays must be emailed as an attachment to MAW at

essay@abolishwar.co.uk to arrive on or before Wednesday, 29 May.
www.abolishwar.org.uk/essay-competition-2019.html

Trident protest

Westminster Abbey is set to host a service to mark 50 years of the UK's nuclear weapons system, described as a 'Service of Thanksgiving to mark 50 years of the Continuous at Sea Deterrent'.

Trident replacement is expected to cost £205 bn. CND and many other groups including MAW will protest at the Abbey if the service goes ahead.

Kate Hudson, general secretary of CND, said: "This sends out a terrible message to the world about our country. It says that we celebrate weapons - in a place of worship - which can kill millions of people."



An emission omission: MAW members Sally Reynolds and Hilary Evans were in Trafalgar Square and told shocked Extinction Rebellion demonstrators how military emissions are NOT counted as emissions.

Militarism and the environment themes for special conference

We have a wonderful array of speakers lined up for the MAW Day Conference, *Save the Earth, Abolish War* which will take place on Saturday, 29 June. 9.30am - 5pm.

The conference will examine the theme of militarism and the environment; in particular how military activities contribute to climate change and how climate change causes conflict. The speakers are Molly Scott Cato (Green MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar) Dr Peter van den Dungen (International Network of Museums for Peace) and Dr Stuart Parkinson (Scientists for Global Responsibility). The Conference will take place at Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

MAW vice-chair Tim Devereux said: "This is a momentous year, it's the 120th anniversary of the First Hague Peace Conference (1899) and the 20th anniversary of the Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP, 1999) which gave birth to MAW. It is also 50 years since the Apollo 11 moon landing of 1969. When the astronauts looked back home, their comments highlighted the beauty and fragility of planet earth, our common home. How petty humankind's divisions on earth, wreaking destruction and involving mass slaughter, seemed from a distance." With our knowledge of climate change, the vulnerability of 'spaceship earth' and the essential unity of all its inhabitants, has only become more obvious. And yet the means of destruction are proliferating and precious resources are squandered in preparing and waging ever more destructive wars.

The conference is free to attend but please register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maw-day-conference-save-the-earth-abolish-war-tickets-56329964440>.

Event honours war objectors

The International Conscientious Objectors' Day event, a ceremony in honour of conscientious objectors past and present, will take place in Tavistock Square London WC1, on Wednesday, 15 May at 1pm (note change of time). There will be some short speeches, songs led by MAW's Sue Gilmurray, a minute's silence and flowers laid at the stone, as we remember the COs of all countries and all times. The guest speakers are Lois Bibbings from the University of Bristol, Michael Lyons, a former army medic and Jay Sutherland. Everyone is welcome.

Climate links

"Devastating climate change and the risk of a nuclear war will not be prevented unless the international community tackles the economic and political influence of the fossil fuel and nuclear weapons industries," according to participants of *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* (www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/basel-conference-2019/) an international conference held in Basel in April. Including legislators, financial managers, civil society representatives and experts in disarmament and climate change – it focused on socially responsible investment (SRI).

MAW's delight as our campaigner Bruce is nominated for Nobel prize

Our President Emeritus, Bruce Kent is having a busy spring - out and about as usual, promoting peace but also receiving well-deserved recognition for his many years of activism.

He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The nomination says: "Widely recognised as the foremost public champion of peace in the UK over the last five decades, he is to this day and in his 90th year still working - tirelessly, consistently, effectively and with a clear broad vision - to establish and promote a culture of peace and to bring about the abolition of war. "Although an extremely well-known individual voice for peace, the bulk of his work has been devoted to strengthening organisations and building movements. His energetic and persuasive leadership in a whole variety of bodies has been simply remarkable." As MAW members will know, Bruce works pro-actively at all levels - local, national and international to:

- **Ban the development, possession and use of nuclear weapons,**
- **Control and reduce the international arms trade,**
- **Promote a new and peaceful international order based on the rule of law and the ideals of the United Nations,**
- **Address the underlying causes from which**



violent conflict arises, promoting nonviolent methods for the avoidance and resolution of such conflict

• **Uphold the concept of, and respect for, human rights, establish a culture of peace, through education in schools,**

and, more broadly, throughout society.

■ Bruce also received the 2019 Ron Todd Award for Peace. The award celebrates people who support and further social justice. Ron Todd was the general secretary of the Transport & General Workers Union and an honorary vice-president of CND. He supported human rights and opposed apartheid in South Africa.



Road to Rome: The Vatican and Pax Christi International held a meeting in Rome promoting nonviolence as the best road to solving international conflict. Valerie Flessati and Pat Gaffney from the UK, both strong MAW supporters and pictured above, were present. Cardinal Turkson from Ghana, Head of the Vatican department for promoting human development, will present the meeting's conclusions to Pope Francis.

Norwegian peace cyclists meet MPs

Peace groups and MPs joined with the Norwegian Bikes for Peace to launch their latest world tour for peace and nuclear disarmament in



spring and they received a warm welcome on the London leg of their journey. Led by partially blind activist Tore Naerland since 1978, the group promotes cycling

as a way to bring communities together in a spirit of peace.

The 2019 tour began with a meeting in Westminster supported by MPs Fabian Hamilton and Caroline Lucas. The cyclists are riding on to France, India, China, Australia, New Zealand and the US before ending at the United Nations HQ in New York.

Ex SAS man will be star speaker at MAW's 2019 Remembrance lecture

We are delighted to announce that former soldier, now peace activist **Ben Griffin** (pictured right) of **Veterans for Peace**, has agreed to be the 2019 MAW Remembrance speaker.

The lecture will take place on **Saturday, November 2 at 2pm at Bloomsbury Baptist Church in central London.**

Put the date in your diary and watch this space for more details of what will be a wonderful afternoon.



● **Standing tall:** Bruce Kent took part in the opening of a remarkable collection of photos and mementos relating to Henry Richard, MP (d: 1888) in Tregaron, West Wales. Richard was referred to as the Apostle of Wales for his peace work and support for Welsh politics and culture. His statue stands outside the Y Talbot Hotel where Mike and Nia Taylor will give you a

warm welcome. Bruce says: "I have been to Tregaron before but never taken a very close look at the statue. A quotation from Henry Richard says 'My hope for the abatement of the war system lies in the permanent conviction of the people, rather than the politics of cabinets or the discussion of Parliamentarians.' An early and effective inspiration for MAW!"

Activist welcomed as MAW vice-president

MAW is delighted to announce that longtime activist and campaigner Diana Francis has joined us as a Vice-President.

Diana, a Quaker since her 20s, grew up in a Christian pacifist family. At 15, she attended a FOR Youth Conference and, within a year, had formed a CND group, started speaking to other youth groups and attended her first CND march.



A generation later, one of her daughters was living at Greenham Common, Diana and her husband, Nick, had been arrested many times and she had become President of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Her experience in the international peace movement informed her subsequent work in support of local activists in parts of the world affected by dangerous or violent conflict, working as a facilitator, trainer and mediator.

Driven by what she has learnt, Diana has written extensively about war and peace. Her focus remains on the abolition of war and on the creation of genuine security for people and planet (see www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk). Her aim now is on changing the culture and systems of militarism and promoting a co-operative and inclusive approach to human and planetary security. She is a member of Rethinking Security's Council and Steering Group, with a specialism in local outreach.



How Sue's songs could help you call for peace in 2019

Between 2014-18 MAW member Sue Gilmurray, pictured left, assembled a collection for MAW of 18 peace songs, some written by herself, some by others, arranged for choral singing and with words, music and audio extracts available via the MAW website. The hope was that choirs could use them during events commemorating the centenary of the 1914-1918 war. Now we are into 2019, but the need for inspiration for peacemaking continues.

Sue would love to hear from you if you have been able to use the songs and if you have ideas for their use in the future. Some of the songs are specifically about World War One, but the majority have

general application to the issues of ending wars and making peace.

Sue is also willing to travel to peace-related events either to give solo performances or to lead singing workshops for peace songs.

In addition to the MAW collection, Sue also has a cycle of seven songs, *The Way of Peace*, which could be performed as part of a larger event, interspersed with poetry readings. The cycle deals with the involvement of young people in war and the necessity for building them a more peaceful world.

Do get in touch if you can see potential use for these resources. Email Sue via info@abolishwar.org.uk.

For an electronic version of the newsletter email Gill Hurlle, gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk. The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published on August 1.

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, 1 Old Mill Place, Haslemere, GU27 1NE

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

Bells ring out

Yoko Ono's *Bells for Peace* will be the opening event at Manchester's International Festival (July 4-21).

The festival is looking for bells with an interesting history - a family heirloom, perhaps. Or make and customise a bell - there will be free workshops in May and June.

If you're part of an existing choir or chorus, you may be able to help create a unique soundscape, singing for peace in Cathedral Gardens. Interested? Send an email to bellsforpeace@mif.co.uk

Membership subscriptions: If you received this newsletter by post the label on the envelope shows your membership status: the date to which you are paid up, eg 2018; 'Life', if you are a life member; 'SO' if you pay by standing order or 'Comp' if you receive a complimentary copy.

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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