

## Prestigious award for our Bruce

**Well done to Bruce Kent on the award of the 2019 Sean MacBride Peace Prize.**

Bruce, a fearless campaigner for nuclear disarmament for decades (he has recently celebrated his 90th birthday) has been actively involved in peace work as part of MAW, Pax Christi, CND and the IPB and as an instigator of public debate and organiser of campaigns.

The Sean MacBride Prize is awarded annually by the International Peace Bureau to a person or organisation who has done outstanding work for peace, disarmament and/or human rights. Sean MacBride was a distinguished Irish Statesman who was Chairman of the IPB from 1968-74 and its President from 1974-1983.

**A note from Bruce: "Dear MAW Friends, I don't often get weepy, but came to the edge when I got your lovely card with its warm birthday wishes with so many signatures and a very generous present. Thank you so much. Well worth getting to 90!"**



MAW vice-chair Tim Devereux presents a surprised Bruce with his birthday gift

● Peace, anti-war and other groups will come together to highlight the presence of the manufacturers of nuclear arms at the DSEI Arms Fair at Excel in London in the first few days of September. This will form part of a fortnight's worth of action called Stop the Arms Fair. Email [gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk) and join the campaign.

For an electronic version of the newsletter email Gill Hurle via [gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk)

The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published on November 1.

## Primed for War – MAW lecture will expose military manipulation



We are pleased to announce that the title of the MAW 2019 Remembrance lecture is *Primed for War*. Our speaker this year is Ben Griffin, pictured, a former soldier and now peace activist. In his lecture, Ben promises to describe the complex interactions between government, politicians, the military, arms and energy industry, public opinion manipulation and historical myth-making which, together with illusions of greatness and world leadership, have contributed to our aggressive military posture.

Ben is a former British SAS soldier who refused to return to Iraq and left the Army, citing not only the "illegal" tactics of United States troops and the policies of coalition forces but also that the invasion itself was illegal. He is now co-ordinator for the UK branch of Veterans for Peace, an active peace organisation. In December 2015 he joined with members of Veterans for Peace to discard his medals outside Downing Street in protest against the UK's involvement in the Syrian civil war. The Remembrance lecture will take place on Saturday, November 2, 2pm, Bloomsbury Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8EP.

## Movement for the Abolition of War - Annual General Meeting

11am, Saturday, November 2,  
Bloomsbury Central Baptist  
Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue,  
London WC2H 8EP

Including: chair's report, election of committee members and officers and open discussion forum.

Details of those standing in the elections will be available on the MAW website from October [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)

**If you would like to nominate someone to stand for the committee (nominees must be MAW members) or, if you cannot attend the AGM but have any suggestions or concerns you would like raised, please contact us.**

## Audience bears witness to the brave stance of COs



Around 200 people gathered in Tavistock Square in central London on May 15 to mark Conscientious Objectors' Day. At the event, co-hosted by MAW as part of the First World War Peace Forum, Prof Lois Bibbings from the University of Bristol mentioned the First World War COs still imprisoned in 1919. Jay Sutherland of Scotland Against Militarism described how arms companies and armies exploit

young people: 'militarism is a youth issue' he said. A choir sang songs by MAW member Sue Gilmurray and flowers were laid on the memorial stone. ● Make the most of summer: The Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp takes place on the second weekend of every month. Follow them on Twitter @Peace\_women\_AWE or contact them via [www.aldermaston.net](http://www.aldermaston.net).

## Artist expresses her wish for peace

MAW member Hilary Evans spoke at a reception for a fabulous one-woman anti-war protest in London recently. The Foundry in Vauxhall ( SW11 5RR ) is hosting the exhibition by MAW member and artist/sculptor Alison Lochhead from mid-Wales. Hilary says: "I found it quite powerful. Alison asks why we continue waging war and forcing people to leave their homes to seek safety - where there often isn't any. The exhibits are all on the theme of some the consequences of war and the terror and dangers faced by refugees fleeing in small boats.

Alison says: "When people get into the boats they have no idea what may happen or what their future may be. Why do we continue to think we can solve our differences through violence and conflict?"

**Catch it while you can, Monday - Friday, 9am-6pm until 15 August. Alison is pictured right.**





**Making their mark: Allana, (above left), Caitlin, speaker Molly Scott Cato (Green MEP), Ashkin and Lucas (left)**

## Teenage essay winners are the write stuff!

Well done everyone who entered MAW's essay competition for young people on the theme *Walking on the moon, still Warring on earth*. The winners were:  
**Equal first prizes: Allana Bennisson (18) Dubai; and Lucas Valladares (15) High Barnet.**  
**Equal third prizes: Anna Pitt-Francis (17) Oxford; Ashkin Kazimoglu (11) Edinburgh; and Caitlin Kinch (15) Orpington.**  
 They were presented with their awards at the MAW conference in June, *Save the World, Abolish War*, a wonderfully productive day with our

speakers, 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). You can see the winning essays on the MAW website - [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk). Now MAW will build on the success of the conference, for example, by producing a flyer - 'War is bad for the planet too' to make a link which often ignored in climate change campaigning.

● This autumn, CND and the International Peace Bureau will be holding a joint forum on 21<sup>st</sup> century Security: challenges and solutions. Open to all, this will take place on Sunday, October 20 at St Thomas' Hospital, Westminster Bridge Road, London. On the previous day (Saturday, October 19) both organisations will hold their respective business meetings – CND's annual conference and the IPB's Triennial Assembly at the same location.

● A Youth conference *Transform! Towards a Culture of Peace* is planned for Berlin: <http://www.ipb.org/activities/ipb-youth-network-conference-transform-towards-a-culture-of-peace/> from September 20 – 22.

## Call to label damage to nature a war crime

International lawmakers should adopt a fifth Geneva convention that recognises damage to nature alongside other war crimes, according to an open letter by 24 prominent scientists. It should incorporate wildlife safeguards in conflict regions, including protections for nature reserves, controls on the spread of guns for hunting and measures to hold military forces to account for environmental damage say the signatories to the letter which has been published in the journal *Nature*.

The UN international Law Commission is due to hold a meeting with the aim of building on 28 principles it has already drawn up to protect the environment in war zones. Prof Sarah Durant of the Zoological Society of London, one of the signatories, said: "The brutal toll of war on the natural world is well documented, destroying the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and driving many species, already under intense pressure, towards extinction." In the Vietnam War, the US military used Agent Orange to clear millions of hectares of forest with disastrous consequences for humans and wildlife.

In 1991, the Iraqi military set fire to more than 600 oil wells during a scorched-earth retreat from Kuwait. More recently, collapsing populations of cheetahs, gazelles and other species in the Sahara-Sahel region have been linked to the spread of guns following Libya's civil war.

Battles in Mali and Sudan have resulted in a rise in the number of elephant killings.

# MAW joins nuclear protest rally at Abbey

## Prince Charles taken to task

MAW member Mark Bishop wrote to Prince Charles to protest the planned church service of thanksgiving. He told the Prince: "I am appalled. Nuclear weapons are of indescribable evil. They need to be abolished not celebrated; this is recognised by a very substantial proportion of the global population. "Nuclear weapons threaten the future of the human race and life on earth." And he asked the Prince: "Is it within your power or influence to intervene? Would you be able, for example, to suggest to the Dean of Westminster that the purpose of the event be altered to a service for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons?" Mark received a reply from Clarence House which said: "His Royal Highness is grateful to you for taking the trouble to write and you can rest assured that your comments have been noted. The Prince of Wales always appreciates receiving the views of individuals."

**Take action:** Don't forget to tell MAW about your own peace activities: stalls, letters, talks or exhibitions, and send us a picture for *Abolish War*. More news from outside London please!

**Members of MAW joined others outside Westminster Abbey in May to protest against a service marking 50 years of Britain's Continuous At Sea Deterrent (CASD).**

At least 5,000 letters were sent to Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster Abbey asking for the service to be cancelled. (See right for details of a letter sent to prince Charles).

A statement calling on the Dean to "urgently reconsider" was signed by 194 Anglican clerics. In his address the Dean said: "We cannot celebrate weapons



**Bruce Kent (pictured above) and Hilary Evans (left) of MAW**  
Pic: CND



victims of nuclear warfare. But we owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to those who have maintained the deterrent." Protestors staged a "die-in" to represent

### 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

**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.

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