

Have your say

Movement for the Abolition of War - Annual General Meeting

Saturday November 2,
11am, Bloomsbury Central
Baptist Church,
235 Shaftesbury Avenue,
London WC2H 8EP.
Chair's report, election of
committee members and
officers and open discussion
forum.
All welcome

Proposed constitution change to allow our Treasurer to stay in post:

John Dowbekin has ably
served as treasurer for the
last four years. All officers
are reappointed annually at
the AGM, but our
constitution has a rule that
no officer should serve in
the same role for more than
four consecutive years. We
would like to amend this to
say "with the exception of
the treasurer who may be
reappointed indefinitely".

For an electronic version of
the newsletter email
Gill Hurle via
gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk
The next edition of *Abolish
War* will be published on
February 1, 2020.



MAW members Hilary Evans and Jen Harrison took the MAW banner to the XR Peace demonstrations. See Page 3 for more.

Rethinking security – join us for talk which seeks a better future

We are pleased to announce Richard
Reeve has agreed to deliver the
Remembrance Lecture this year.

(Unfortunately the original speaker,
Ben Griffin, has had to withdraw.)

Richard is the outgoing Chief
Executive of Oxford Research Group;

he has 20 years of experience in peace, conflict and security
research. He has conducted research in more than 30 countries
in Africa, Europe and Asia and has expertise in British foreign
and defence policy, including relations with the United States,
NATO, the EU and UN. MAW has recently affiliated to Rethinking
Security, where Richard is the incoming Co-ordinator.

He says: "Security matters to everyone, but much that
governments do in its name is making us all less safe, at home
and around the world. It's time for a rethink."

We very much look forward to hearing him talk on *Rethinking
Security: How Britain can think globally and act peacefully* at
Bloomsbury Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8EP,
2pm on Saturday 2 November. Book your place on Eventbrite:
<https://tinyurl.com/MAW-lecture>



Delegates hear lessons from the past – and pledge to take action

Tim Devereux reports on MAW's 2019 Day Conference: "Save the Earth, Abolish War"

On a hot Saturday in June, around 100 delegates attended our London conference, which examined the links between climate change and war.

The day was split into four sessions and the hall was laid out 'cabaret style' - with each group of chairs surrounding a table. This layout facilitated the post-talk discussions between groups of delegates, given the delightful name of 'chatterboxing'. Peter van den Dungen, (International Network of Museums for Peace) gave the first talk - *Abolishing war, hopeful lessons from history*. We heard about many heroes of the peace movement, some well known like Joseph Rotblat - nuclear scientist turned peace campaigner, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (who referred to war as the "foulest blot upon our civilisation") and Alfred Nobel, instigator of the Peace Prize. We also heard about



Setting the scene: MAW's Tim Devereux

others less famous - Emma Goldman, anarchist, anti-militarist and feminist and Bertha von Suttner, the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Stuart Parkinson (Scientists for Global Responsibility) spoke on *The carbon boot-print of the military*. He outlined the science of the climate crisis, before considering just how military activity (with or without actual war) impacts on the environment. Did you know the UK Ministry of Defence publishes information about its sustainable development and environmental impacts, but the US Department of Defense does not?

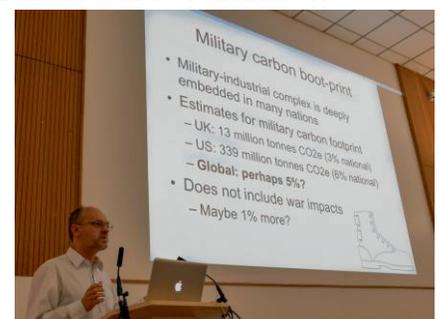
Perhaps the most telling statistic was the comparison of military and climate spending - in 2016, UK spent £3 on climate for every £100 on the military. For the USA, it was 20 cents for every \$100. Clearly, "security goals are better served by a shift from military to climate spending." Molly Scott Cato, (Green MEP

for the South West of England and Gibraltar) spoke on *No climate justice, no peace* saying: "Just as in the 1980s people feel under the threat of annihilation - then from nuclear weapons, now from the climate crisis. The environment is the silent casualty of war, with fragile eco systems and habitats destroyed, unexploded munitions, waste contamination, water scarcity. "Climate change causes conflict. People leave their home because of fires, floods or droughts because they cannot subsist there, then they move to other people's land and the possibility for conflict becomes very clear." In the final session, participants discussed what actions they would take to counteract war and climate change.

The presentations, audio recordings and/or transcripts of the talks are available on the MAW website, at <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/day-conference-2019.html>



All talk – plus action: Chatterboxing away Below: Stuart Parkinson



Costa Rican tale

The film *A Bold Peace*, telling the story of Costa Rica's decision in 1948 to give up its army and of some of the consequences and challenges faced as a result, continues to make its way gradually around the country. If you would like to screen it for your peace group, contact hilarymevans@btinternet.com

Climate on AGM agenda

MAW was recently invited to join XR Peace - <http://xrpeace.org/> - the new branch of Extinction Rebellion billed as “a coming together of movements to resist the twin existential threats of militarism and climate emergency”. The MAW Committee would like guidance from the membership on this matter. MAW has long argued that peace, justice and environmental issues are inextricably linked and must all move forward together. But what is the most effective course of action? Valid arguments can be made in favour of a commitment to nonviolent direct action and equally valid arguments against. Please come to the AGM, join the discussion and give us your views.

Late news: David Collins (pictured above – MAW Exec & VfP) would have spoken outside the MOD on October 10 if XR Peace had secured the ground. His speech is well worth reading: <https://tinyurl.com/VfP-climate>



Take local action against nuclear weapons!

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is appealing to cities, towns and local authorities to declare support for the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons 2017 (TPNW). Although carrying no legal weight, such a resolution provides an opportunity for civil society to express an opinion and so another route to influencing government. So far, 79 states have signed the TPNW. The UK government refused to participate in multilateral negotiations for the new treaty and has said it will not sign.

Many local authorities around the country are now declaring a climate emergency or at least taking climate change seriously. In view of the massive environmental threat posed by these genocidal weapons - producing and maintaining them has an enormous carbon footprint, is a huge drain on resources and any use, accidental or otherwise, would be catastrophic - it's an ideal time to highlight these connections.

MAW members are urged to contact their local councillors and ask for support for such a resolution.

ICAN's suggested wording says: ***“Our city/town/borough is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on our governments to join it.”***

This could easily be tweaked to give greater emphasis to the environmental aspect. For more information or to discuss contact hilarymevans@btinternet.com
Hilary Evans

The write stuff at peace display

A remarkable exhibition of Peace History can be found on the fourth floor of London University's Senate House, Malet Street WC1. It is a free exhibition, as is the extensive and interesting catalogue. The exhibition *Writing in Times of Conflict* is open until December 14 and all concerned with building a more peaceful world will not fail to be very interested.

Some items will be well known. For example, EP Thompson's pamphlet, *Protest and Survive* which did so much to fire up the powerful public protest about the deployment of Cruise missiles in the early 1980s, has a place. But so too Kathleen Lonsdale's, not nearly so well known, *Is Peace Possible* of 1957. *Greenham Women Everywhere* is also featured.

There are so many other names and places listed: Nelson Mandela, Greta Thunberg, Betty England, and Pat Arrowsmith, Philip Noel-Baker, Vera Brittain and George Orwell all get more than a mention. Of course it is not the whole story. But it's a very good reason for spending at least a little time in London.

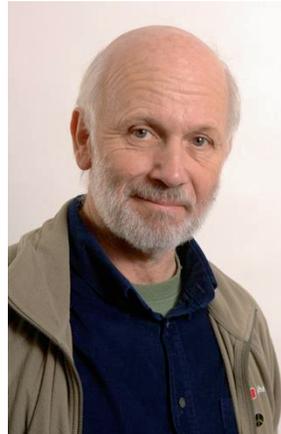
‘Hope’ – how support for a new way of living is growing

Dave Webb, Chair of CND, Vice President IPB and Convenor of Peace in Space Network, reports on *Hope in a Time Like Ours*, the 4th Annual Conference of World Beyond War, held in Limerick, Ireland in early October.

About 150 people from a range of countries travelled to Limerick to attend the 4th annual conference of World Beyond War. The date was appropriate, marking the 18th year of the war in Afghanistan and also the 150th birthday of Mohandas Gandhi. Among the speakers were Mairead Maguire, Brian Terrell, David Swanson, Foad Izadi from Iran and many others. Topics ranged from *Nonviolence and Human Rights* to

Demilitarising Society and Activism to Abolish War.

There were also six workshops on activism focusing on *Divestment, Youth Activism, Celebrating Peace, Ending the War in Afghanistan, Closing Military Bases, Using Music to Build the Movement.* The conference also agreed a letter of solidarity that will be delivered to Julian Assange in Belmarsh Prison. Also attending and speaking at the conference were Ken Mayers (82) and Tarak Kauff (77), both US Veterans For



Dave Webb

Peace. They are unable to return home to the US because of bail conditions following their arrest in March for trespassing at Shannon Airport. They were protesting the violation of Irish neutrality through the transport of US troops through the airport to participate in their “endless war” which even President Trump has now called “stupid”. The conference ended with a rally and tour at Shannon which included an open-mic session and visit to the peace camp. All in all, a successful two days

of discussion on transforming society, held in a good supportive atmosphere. Congratulations to the organisers! More details and links to video recordings are on the World Beyond War website - <https://worldbeyondwar.org>

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.

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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Only connect? Pope Francis does...
“Today’s world is increasingly becoming more elitist and cruel. Developing countries continue to be drained of their best natural and human resources. Wars only affect some regions of the world, yet weapons of war are produced and sold in other regions which are then unwilling to take in the refugees produced by these conflicts. Those who pay the price are always the poor.”

Pope Francis, message for World Day of Migrants, 29 September 2019