

## Report reveals disturbing links

Scientists for Global Responsibility has produced a report, *Irresponsible Science? How the fossil fuel and arms industries finance professional engineering and science organisations*.

It reveals an extensive pattern of financial links between the arms and fossil fuel industries on the one hand and some of the UK's leading professional engineering and science organisations on the other. Links include funding of school education programmes, conference sponsorship, investments, donations and corporate ties. The organisations that received the most significant funding from the arms industries were firstly Royal Academy of Engineering and secondly EngineeringUK. A blog summarising the report can be viewed at <https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/irresponsible-science> The full report, with appendices, can be seen at <https://www.sgr.org.uk/publications/irresponsible-science>

For an electronic version of the newsletter email Gill Hurlle via [gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk) The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published on May 1.



Read about how a group of Creative Media students from Kingston College in south west London are looking at the climate crisis, with a little help from MAW. See page 2.

## MAW makes ambitious bid to get round the table at COP 26

MAW Committee member David Collins with help from Hilary Evans has submitted an application for accreditation to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). If successful, this will enable MAW to access the official arena at Glasgow's COP 26, the next UN Climate Change conference in November, and will increase our chances of being granted a speaking opportunity at one of the conference side events. "I recommend that MAW adopts the objective of getting militarism and war accepted as an integral part of the UNFCCC negotiations on climate change," said David. "If this were to be achieved then every government in the world would have to agree that reductions in military activity must form part of their carbon reduction commitment."

● We're really delighted that long-time MAW member Alison Lochhead (pictured right with David Collins) from mid-Wales has joined the Executive Committee. She was unable to attend the AGM because she was working in the Katsikas Refugee camp in northern Greece for several weeks. She's now back and enthusiastically looking forward to contributing to MAW's work.



## Jägerstätter sets a peaceful example

Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati are offering to facilitate discussions about the life of a remarkable man, ideally following their presentation or after people have seen the film about his life.

*A Hidden Life*, directed by Terrence Malick, tells of Franz Jägerstätter, Austrian farmer and church sacristan, with a wife and children, who refused to serve in Hitler's army and was executed in 1943. There is no reason to assume that he was an absolutist pacifist – he just thought Hitler's wars were wrong and immoral.

Not popular immediately after the war in his own village of St Radegund, which lost many young men in that war, he is now on the way to being made a saint.

Valerie and Bruce would be happy to lead a discussion about him.

Email [info@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:info@abolishwar.org.uk) if you are interested.

## Sing for good causes

The Birmingham Clarion Singers (BCS) is inviting new singers to join the group as it prepares to celebrate the 80th anniversary of its foundation.

In its early days in World War II, the choir performed in air raid shelters, on bombsites, for night-time factory workers and for forces and civilians. Throughout its history, the choir has sung in support of nuclear disarmament, against the rise of racism and in favour of environmental sustainability.

Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings (term-time only) in Kings Heath. There are no auditions. To find out more, visit <https://birminghamclarionsingers.wordpress.com/about/>



Many thanks to Richard Reeve, Co-ordinator of Rethinking Security and former chief executive of the Oxford Research Group, for giving the Remembrance Lecture for MAW. Richard is pictured left with MAW Chair Tim Devereux.

A recording of his lecture can be heard via the MAW website at [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk) Planning is of course underway for the 2020 MAW Lecture – so watch this space!

## MAW activists join students in film project on climate crisis

Thanks to a chance meeting, a group of Creative Media students from Kingston College in south west London have chosen the climate crisis as the topic for their final assessment project, with particular emphasis on the need for system change. Director Neha Sunda and production managers Jack Pauley and Era Birka, together with their team, filmed during the XR protest in London last year and spotted members of Kingston Peace Council and Movement for the Abolition of War, plus banners, at the XR Peace site close to the Ministry of Defence. They were keen to listen to our message concerning the connection between militarism and climate change and subsequently decided to include it in their 24-minute

filmed magazine show.

This is an exciting project for us and it has been enjoyable to work with such a charming, focused and professional team.

The magazine show *Changing London* features footage of the XR action plus pre-recorded interviews with a local councillor and also with a group of allotment holders. Live filming included Mary Holmes of Kingston Peace Council participating in a debate on system change and MAW's Hilary Evans was interviewed on the significance of military-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Both agree that it has been a delight working with the group and MAW wishes them well with their project and hope their important message will be seen and heard far and wide.



**Forging links: MAW members focus on the cost of conflict**

## *Militarisation: A Reader*

For readers feeling the need for a deeper understanding of militarisation and the many forms it takes, this major new collection will be welcome. Published by Duke Press and the outcome of an initiative by the Network of Concerned Anthropologists, which has worked since 2007 to oppose the militarisation of anthropology and society more broadly, it consists of 12 sections, each highlighting a theme such as political economy, gender, rhetoric, place and territory, militarised humanitarianism, media and technology.

While some contributions are fairly academic, there are many more accessible chapters on subjects such as war toys, landmines, robots and war porn. As Phyllis Bennis from the Institute for Policy Studies says: "Militarism's reach extends far beyond the weapons, armed police, soldiers prowling our streets and deployed around the world, as its rhetoric normalises violence and war."

"This deeply intersectional collection insists on the vantage point of militarism's victims, historically and today, whilst exposing those who profit. "It provides an astonishingly comprehensive introduction to the globalised systems threatening individuals, nations, peoples and cultures, all captured by a profoundly militarised United States."

**Full details can be seen at:**  
<https://www.dukeupress.edu/militarization>

424pp. \$30.95

**Colin Archer**

## MAW's eye-catching message about climate crisis is successful in Madrid

MAW's eye-catching banner caused an international stir in December in Madrid, taking its message to the UN Climate Conference COP 25. It was seen and photographed by thousands of delegates and visitors entering the conference centre, and by more on the climate march through Madrid led by Greta Thunberg.

The 500,000-strong Scientists for Global Responsibility's estimate that 6% of global greenhouse gas emissions result from military-related activity was at the core of MAW's message.

Astonishingly, we could find no mention of this aspect in the

conference programme, at the public events and displays in the Green Zone, or at the complementary *Social Summit* held at the University.

But perhaps this shouldn't be surprising since Kyoto 1997 ruled there would be no obligation on countries to count these emissions or include them in reduction targets.

Disappointingly, MAW member David Collins' paper on the topic got no further than the waiting list for a slot at an official side event. Nevertheless, our visible presence was worthwhile. We had useful conversations and made good contacts with a wide range of people.

David's paper has been translated into Italian and published in the progressive Catholic journal *Adista*, and *The Guardian* published our letter – <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/16/the-climate-emergency-military-emissions-and-greta-thunberg>

● Look out for MAW members at an International Conference on the Environment and Conflict, organised by the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies Liverpool Hope University, on 29 June. [www.hope.ac.uk](http://www.hope.ac.uk)

**David Collins and Hilary Evans**

## Author's powerful critique of war recognised

### Banned: Books for Peace

The Manchester Peace History Conference group organised a most interesting evening at the Unitarian Chapel towards the end of last year.

A film made by Nick Wilding, featuring Maxine Peake, presented the work of Theodora Wilson, whose two novels *The Last Weapon* and *The Weapon Unsheathed* – powerful stories against war and militarism – were published in 1916.

The books, which were easy to read and far from dry pamphlets, sold well: *The Last Weapon* ran into four editions. However, it disturbed the government as the narrative ran completely counter to their arguments of “For King and Country” and “just war”, so the books were banned.



Especially interesting were Wilson's critique of the institutions supporting war and her prediction of a powerful super-weapon in years to come. Wilson (1865-1941) was born in

Kendal and educated at a Quaker school. She published numerous books for children and adults. To her, as a Christian, the Friends' Peace Testimony was of deep importance. As a young woman, she was involved in social work in Kendal and in wider movements including the Labour Party, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the No More War Movement.

Dr Paul Anderson of the University of Essex gave a fascinating talk on the wider aspects of *Censorship in Wartime* and the fate of the anti-war movement during WW1.

Many of the themes brought up are relevant today. The Peace History Conference Group is seeking funding for a new edition of *The Last Weapon* with an introduction showing its current relevance.

For more details see <http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/republish-the-last-weapon>

### 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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● **Stephen Cottrell** has been appointed next Archbishop of York. Among the issues on which Cottrell has spoken out is nuclear weapons. In 2016, he told a rally in London the renewal of Trident was “an affront to God” and, last year, he told the Synod there were “no circumstances” in which Trident's use could be justified. In April 2019 he was among 25 priests and bishops who opposed a service at Westminster Abbey marking 50 years of patrols by the UK's nuclear deterrent. “It's impossible not to view this service as appearing also to celebrate the weapons,” he said.