

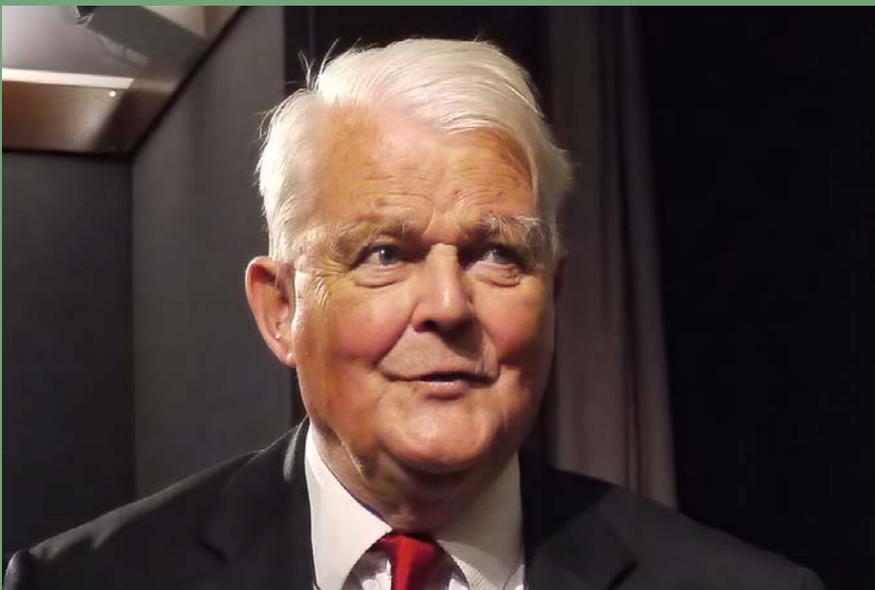
How can we encourage peace debate?

On **Wednesday, 21 September (7 - 8.30pm)** - the UN International Day of Peace - MAW will host a live event entitled **On Peace**.

Please join us at the Brockway Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL, or watch via live streaming. Our vice-president, **Martin Bell**, known to millions as a distinguished former war correspondent, will exchange ideas with **Ben Griffin**, a former SAS soldier and the founder of Veterans for Peace UK. The two men will talk about their experiences, share insights and discuss how to stimulate a public debate on peace, before taking questions live and also via streaming. MC for the evening will be satirical artist and activist **Darren Cullen** (aka Spelling Mistakes Cost Lives).

Book your place, in person or online, via <https://tinyurl.com/32keh286>

For an electronic version of this newsletter please email Gill Hurle at gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk
The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published in December.



Colin Archer reflects on the life of Bruce Kent, the example he set and the lessons we can learn from his life and work **Remembering Bruce, man of peace**

Bruce Kent, founder of MAW and our President Emeritus, who died on June 8, had a well-rounded view of peace work. In 1969, he saw in Biafra the mass starvation of civilians while the British supplied arms to the government. "I realised that to talk seriously about relieving poverty without facing up to militarisation is to delude oneself and others." Earlier than many, Bruce also saw there won't be peace without tackling climate change or gender inequality. His life story will be well-known to MAW members, many of whom were friends of many years standing. A conventional upbringing, National Service, a Law degree, then training for the priesthood. Work as a curate, then as Archbishop Heenan's Private Secretary. Next, University Chaplain and parish priest. But it was his leadership of CND that found him in the public eye. Bruce married Valerie Flessati in 1988. They made a powerful pairing, working together on many projects including the London Peace Trail and Peace History Conferences. Bruce's decision to set up MAW emerged from the 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace, a huge international conference. Everyone in MAW and beyond will have their own stories of Bruce and we miss him greatly already. But what would Bruce want us to do now? Three of **Cont on p3**

Notices

Movement for the Abolition of War - AGM 2022

Saturday, 12 November, 11am at The Welsh Church of Central London, 30 Eastcastle Street, London W1W 8DJ (nearest underground is Oxford Circus).

Including: Chair's annual report, Treasurer's Report, election of Committee officers and members. Details of those standing in the elections will be available on the MAW website from October - www.abolishwar.net

If you would like to nominate someone to stand for the committee (nominees must be MAW members) or you cannot attend the AGM but have any suggestions or concerns, please contact us by 1 November at info@abolishwar.org.uk or 1 Old Mill Place, Haslemere, GU27 1NE.

Movement for the Abolition of War - The Annual Remembrance Lecture 2022

This year's Remembrance Lecture will be delivered by Dr Kate Hudson, General Secretary CND.

Saturday, 12 November, 2pm (after the AGM) at The Welsh Church of Central London, 30 Eastcastle Street, London W1W 8DJ (The nearest Underground station is Oxford Circus). All welcome.

Now Liechtenstein's 'Veto Initiative' gains approval at the UN

MAW has always supported the UN and its efforts for peace. But of course the veto itself prevents efforts to change the veto... So we are delighted that a major reform effort came to fruition on April 26, when the General Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus to raise the political cost of exercising the veto by the five permanent Security Council members. The goal of this "veto initiative," launched in 2020 by Liechtenstein and 15 other

states, is to ensure that when the Council is blocked from taking action over a critical issue, those wielding the veto are held to account in the Assembly.

All states have an equal say there and there is no veto. The resolution could complement the "Uniting for Peace" mechanism, introduced during the Korean War, which allows for emergency special sessions.

Source: <https://una.org.uk/news/liechtensteins-veto-initiative-wins-wide-approval-un-will-it-deter-major-powers>

Helping climate and peace activists find the way forward

MAW is supporting a **War and Climate Emergency Day School** for climate and peace campaigners at **West Oxford Community Centre, Oxford, on Saturday, 29 October, (11am - 5pm)**.

It may or may not be too early to say whether the war in Ukraine and, with it, the renewed threat of a nuclear-tipped Cold War will wreck or accelerate national and international efforts to respond to an ever worsening climate emergency.

It certainly poses questions for how grassroots climate and peace campaigners can plan effective action against the current backdrop in the

coming months and probably years ahead.

This educational workshop has been put together to provide space in which to learn, reflect and respond. It is open to all and welcomes anybody with an interest in this area.

Watch out for registration details soon on our website (www.abolishwar.net).

Contributors will include Nafeez Ahmed, (RethinkX writer and analyst), Stuart Parkinson, (Scientists for Social Responsibility), Andrew Simms, (Rapid Transition Alliance and New Weather Institute) and Tim Street, (nuclear weapons expert).

On that note: MAW member Sue Gilmurray has recorded an interview with academic Oskar Cox Jensen, from the University of the Third Age (UEA), about her song *The war machine rolls round* for a major project on protest songs and their history,

called *Our Subversive Voice*. This includes many and varied songs, some from centuries ago and some more recent.

The war machine rolls round was written 20 years ago to protest against the international arms trade - and Sue added two

new verses for a CND protest earlier this year. See www.oursubversivevoice.com Or <https://oursubversivevoice.com/interview/sue-gilmurray/> to find the songs, hear them and listen to the interview.

Bruce and MAW: Banners microphone - and a smile



Tireless: Whether it was putting the case against war in Gaza (above, 2014), speaking against Trident renewal (right and top right, 2016) or arguing against war in Syria (below right, 2013) Bruce was there - and still found time for committees (below) to take the case to Whitehall (left) and much, much more.



From page 1 - Remembering Bruce:

his favourite themes were:

1. Support the UN. Make the Charter available in schools
2. Reform UK charity law to allow more political expression
3. Remind the public: Trident is not "independent".

And more: rights of prisoners, the arms trade, pensioners for peace...

Above all, as a great walker, we think Bruce would say: "Show up. Keep going."

<https://abolishwar.net/obituary-bruce-kent/>

Actor Mark Rylance said he was honoured to meet *his* hero in 2017 at CO Day in Tavistock Square

Costa Rica's story

A reminder that MAW offers the film *A Bold Peace* to lend for group viewings. The award-winning documentary tells the story of Costa Rica's decision 74 years ago to give up its army. President Figueres believed that, with limited resources, expenditure on health, education and welfare was more important than military spending. When asked how he could ensure his country's national security he replied: "Through international law." Unsurprisingly, there have been challenges in the intervening years, some of which are examined in the film. This is an interesting, uplifting and thought-provoking film - raising several debating points. Contact hilarymevans@btinternet.com if you are interested in borrowing it.

First TPNW meeting is hailed a success despite UK absence

The First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), held in Vienna in June, ended with a great sense of optimism. A powerful action plan was adopted and a strong programme of work established - see https://www.icanw.org/1msp_declaration_and_action_plan_adopted Members of ICAN UK Partners felt this was due in no small part to the influence of the Austrian Chair, Alexander Kmentt, with his enthusiasm and deep commitment to the TPNW. One remarked how refreshing it was to see campaigners working *with* governments rather than battling against them. The Austrian government went out of its way to provide lovely conference facilities in the centre of Vienna.

A conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, hosted by the Austrian Government, preceded the First Meeting and this theme was emphasised throughout. Several NATO countries attended the conference as observers and while their statements were not overly supportive, their presence did at least indicate some acceptance of the importance of the Treaty. As anticipated, there was no UK government representation and, sadly, the Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament didn't make it either, although a couple of Labour MPs did. Some MAW members in SW London are still awaiting responses from our three LibDem MPs (including the Party Leader) to our request that their Party should send a representative!

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

Trident protest

The CND-lead campaign to stop American nuclear weapons returning to the UK continues. Following protests at RAF Lakenheath in May - CND has called a further action for Saturday, 17 September, with speeches from 1-3pm. This follows reports that the US Department of Defense has added the UK to a list of NATO nuclear weapons storage locations in Europe being upgraded. RAF Lakenheath is run by the US. If you can't attend, please write to your MP and ask them to oppose the stationing of US nuclear weapons in Britain.

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 2022; '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/support-us/join-us/> . 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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