

MAW stands against DSEI Arms Fair which fans the flames of war

DSEI - which stands for Defence and Security Equipment International - is one of the world's biggest arms fairs and is due to make its biennial appearance at ExCeL, East London in September.

Arms companies will woo buyers from around the world, including authoritarian regimes and human rights abusers.

The UK government promotes and facilitates this ghastly event at taxpayers' expense, fanning the flames of war, poverty and repression globally.

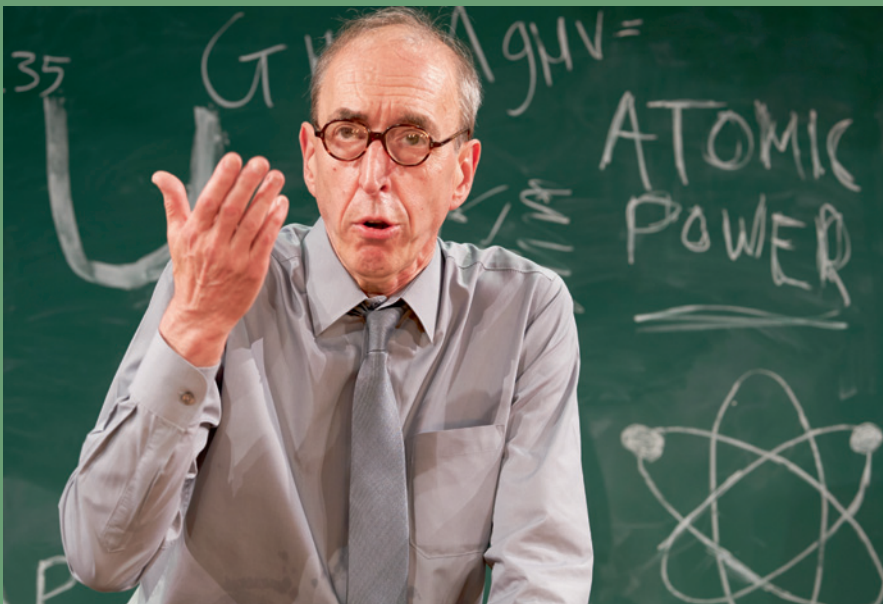
When challenged, politicians claim that we have the tightest arms controls in the world - probably true, but we certainly don't abide by our own rules!

MAW is part of the "Resist DSEI" network of peace and human rights organisations working to stop the fair from taking place or to publicise and disrupt the set-up (4-11 Sept) and to highlight the despicable nature of the deals being made during the fair (12-15 Sept).

There will be themed days, including a Climate Justice Day, No Faith in War Day, No Nuclear Day, a silent vigil and leafletting in the area and at government offices.

Check www.abolishwar.net to find out how you can participate.

For an electronic version of this newsletter email Gill Hurlie at gill.hurlie@abolishwar.org.uk
The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published in September.



Acclaimed actor Michael Mears to give Remembrance Lecture 2023

We are delighted to announce that actor Michael Mears will give the MAW Remembrance Lecture for 2023.

The lecture will be entitled *The role of the arts and culture in promoting peace and opposing war*, and will take place on Saturday, 11 November - more details to follow.

The venue will be the Oasis Hub, 1 Kennington Road, London SE1 7QP and the event will be free.

Michael has a rich and varied career in theatre, television and film - including seasons with the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Peter Hall Company, portraying many classical and Shakespearean roles. He has also worked in many of the UK's regional theatres.

He has performed in London's West End on a number of occasions. But he is perhaps best known as an award-winning performer of his own original plays for theatre and radio. He has performed *This Evil Thing* (2016) more than 100 times in many venues in the UK and in the eastern USA.

This solo play tells the inspiring story of the men who said no to war. Among those featured are Bertrand Russell, one of the greatest mathematicians and philosophers of his time, and Bert Brocklesby, a young school teacher and Methodist preacher, two men who resisted conscription. In the play, what happened to them and to a host of other characters is brought to life by Michael - partly using verbatim testimonies.

Last year, *The Mistake*, his play about

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GDAMS campaign marked by more than 100 actions

More than 100 actions were held worldwide during this year's Global Campaign on Military Spending season (April 13 - May 9). The programme was launched with an international appeal, signed by 123 organisations including MAW, focusing on the cost of war in relation to climate change. A high point came on April 24 with a Twitter storm following the release of the Stockholm International Peace research Institute's annual military spending statistics. (Over \$2 trillion for the first time). The outstanding event in the UK was XR's the "Big One" in London in April. MAW joined forces with GCOMS-UK and others in delivering speeches and displaying banners and placards about military spending outside the Ministry of Defence. Our little red campaign booklet was very popular. Other groups undertaking actions included Women in Black at the Edith Cavell statue in London and Demilitarise Education in Manchester.

GCOMS UK published a detailed commentary on the British figures by Co-Chair Dr Stuart Parkinson. GCOMS International secretariat adds: "*On May 9, Europe Day of Peace and Unity, we organised online actions to protest the militarisation of Europe, together with ENAAT and the Transnational Institute (TNI) and other European friends and partners*".

See more reports at <https://demilitarize.org/> and <https://demilitarize.org.uk/>

Silence - then voices sing out for brave Conscientious Objectors



Paying their respects: The gathering for CO Day at Tavistock Square in London

MAW IS ONE OF 13 PEACE organisations which plan and support Conscientious Objectors' Day, which took place on May 15. Since 1994 there has been a London event in Tavistock Square, around the memorial stone there dedicated to the right to refuse to kill.

This year the event was again hosted by actor and playwright Michael Mears.

He introduced feminist historian Ali Ronan, who reminded us that, although men were subject to conscription in wartime, many women supported COs and often suffered deprivation and persecution for doing so. Semih Sapmaz from War Resisters' International spoke of the present, as Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians and

Israelis are among those who face punishment for refusing military service.

The names of 85 COs past and present, one from every country which could be identified, were read out as white carnations were placed on the memorial stone. We then observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for them.

There was music too. Raised Voices choir began with my song *The Ones Who Said No*, which has been sung on May 15 for more than 20 years - many attendees joined in.

Later came Holly Near's moving song *Foolish Notion*, whose chorus asks "Why do we kill people who are killing people to show that killing people is wrong?" We finished with the song *Road to Peace*.

Events were also held in Abingdon, Edinburgh, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool and Manchester. Search co-day.org to watch an online recording via the Peace Pledge Union.

Sue Gilmurray

Remembrance Lecture 2023 - Cont from p1

Hiroshima and the first atomic bomb, a play for two people, was mounted at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has since played in London. It is due to tour UK-wide this autumn.

For more information about Michael see <https://wordpress.com/page/michaelmears.org/2271>.



MAW puts the focus on the cruel cost of war at The Big One

The MAW Executive decided it was important to participate as part of XR Peace in the massive mobilisation in London in April.

On Friday, April 21, we hung banners and placards outside the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. Our 'War causes Climate Change, Climate Change causes War' banner was prominently displayed throughout the day.

MAW Chair Tim Devereux introduced our speakers on the XR Peace stage. MAW Vice-President Diana Francis spoke first and highlighted the meaning of real human security. She was followed by Ben Donaldson of UNA-UK.

MAW Vice-Chair Hilary Evans then read a speech by Deborah Burton of Tipping Point North South, on getting military emissions onto the Climate COP agenda. (Deborah wasn't able to attend on the day).

Finally Exec member David Collins spoke on *War Is a Racket*, quoting a 1935 speech by Smedley D. Butler, a retired US Marine Corps Major-General, presenting insights into the practical human realities of militarism. In a subsequent workshop - *War Costs Us The Earth* - organised by GCOMS UK, MAW Vice-President Colin Archer spoke about the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS).

Many of us joined an XRPeace procession, led by a "town crier", up and down Whitehall and also accompanied by the Grim Reaper.

The following day was Earth Day and designated *The Big One for Biodiversity*. MAW members attended the Unite for Nature Rally in front of Westminster Abbey, then joined the march to Parliament Square and a mass "die-in." The final day at The Big One saw MAW members take part in the People's Assembly and a march across the Thames to Jubilee Gardens.

How many participated? Some say 100,000. There were no arrests. It was quite an extraordinary achievement. But far more will be needed to reach our common goals.

David Collins



Speaking out: Photos from the weekend with MAW chair Tim Devereux (top) and Exec member Gill Hurlle (middle).

Events took place around the country, including Glasgow (pictured above).



Tree-mendous tribute to Bruce: Friends and family gathered in Finsbury Park, North London recently to plant a tree in honour of Bruce Kent. Local MP Jeremy Corbyn and Kate Hudson of CND are pictured.

Bonn talks will assess Paris Agreement targets

We are pleased to say that our colleague Deborah Burton of Tipping Point North South, with whom we have worked closely on the military emissions issue, will attend the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Global Stocktake meeting in Bonn this month. This is the first Global Stocktake - a process to assess how well the Paris Agreement climate targets are being met and, crucially, to identify any gaps and opportunities for increased action. The results will be

presented at COP28 later this year.

Deborah, as part of the growing network of organisations working on this topic, responded to the invitation to NGOs to contribute. Building on their submission, she will speak at a side event - *Closing the Global Stocktake's Military Emissions Gap*. Deborah will also use her time in Bonn to talk to representatives of countries identified as likely to be convinced of the need for military emissions be added to the COP agenda.

Hilary Evans

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 ☐

Sit back, enjoy the ride - and let Tim do the work!

Here's a chance to hear MAW chair Tim Devereux tell the story of his many recent bike rides for Peace and the great publicity he achieved. It's a relaxing and worthwhile 30 minutes romp through many days of hard slog!

As one reviewer puts it: "The talk is illustrated with wonderful slides of bike rides in the countryside around his home in West Yorkshire as well as further afield."

Here's a link for your peace and cycling buddies - <https://abolishwar.net/bikes-for-peace-talk/>

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 2023; '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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