

Movement for the Abolition of War - Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2023

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Movement for the Abolition of War will take place on Saturday, 11 November, at 12 noon.

The venue will be The Oasis Hub, 1 Kennington Road, London SE1 7QP, which is opposite Lambeth North station and about a ten minute walk from Waterloo Station.

The AGM will include the 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.

Do come along and let us know of any views, concerns or suggestions for future action which you may have, or even just to express support for the committee!

We would welcome new committee members. If you wish to nominate someone to stand (nominees must be MAW members) then please contact us by Tuesday, 1 November at info@abolishwar.org.uk or write to 1, Old Mill Place, Haslemere, GU27 1NE.

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



Deep roots: Members of Scottish CND and friends gathered in summer to plant a tree in memory of Bruce Kent

See Page 2 for the full story and more

UN policy brief may look to a future of fewer blue helmets

The UN has launched an important policy brief on the future of multilateral security - one of many papers in preparation for the 2024 *Summit of the Future*. The original *Agenda for Peace* (1992) offered a vision of a post-Cold War interventionist UN.

This New Agenda still emphasises conflict prevention and peacebuilding, but marks a significant break. UN agencies have a supporting role rather than being key actors. Given the new phase of geostrategic competition, the UN must facilitate co-operation, not lead it.

Members are urged to formulate new guidelines/treaties, to reduce cyber-attacks, avoid an arms race in outer space, prohibit killer robots, manage military AI applications and tackle biohazards. It encourages the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to be more active on security issues, and to "elevate" the Peacebuilding Commission.

As for climate, the majority of UN members are concerned about extreme weather, droughts etc impacting international stability. The Secretary General (UNSG) echoes this, calling on the Security Council and IPCC to pay greater heed to this topic. Overall,

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How history informs the future of peace

A fascinating talk - *Our Objects are Peace, a Culture of Peace is our Object. How the Peace Museum holds the past and releases the future* - will be held on Wednesday, October 25. The Olof Palme Memorial Peace Lecture 2023 will take place at 7.30pm at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds. The speaker will be Clive Barrett, Chair of the Peace Museum in nearby Bradford. A peace movement historian and author, he will use images from that Museum to explore how insights from peace movement history can inspire peace work today.

The Peace Museum, unique in the UK, presents the history and stories of peacemakers and the peace movement. The Royal Armouries Museum is the home of the UK's national collection of arms and armour (five floors of galleries and 4,500 objects). Come early and view the galleries, including the *Farewell to Arms* peace exhibit. Tickets: via Eventbrite and more details are available from colinarcher@phonecoop.coop

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UN policy brief and the presence of blue helmets it points to an organisation which may deploy fewer blue helmets but could still play an important role in helping states navigate global changes. (Summary based on an International Crisis Group report.) <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/summit-of-the-future>

Colin Archer

Bruce's legacy and decades of activism celebrated in booklet

In July, a group gathered at Wiston Lodge, near Biggar in south Scotland, to celebrate the life of Bruce Kent and to share ideas about future peace work (See photo on page 1). They planted a tree in Bruce's memory and launched a booklet, *Bruce Kent: Memories From Scotland* - a collection of reflections from some of Bruce's friends in Scotland. Bruce's wife Valerie Flessati was a very welcome guest. The themes of Bruce's commitment, humility and humour ran strongly through our sharing and conversations.

Thanks to Meg Beresford, Bruce's colleague at END and CND, for hosting us. It was a lovely day and many good connections were made. Bruce's legacy will always be part of the peace work in Scotland.

Lesley Morrison

Who fancies a brew with Bruce?

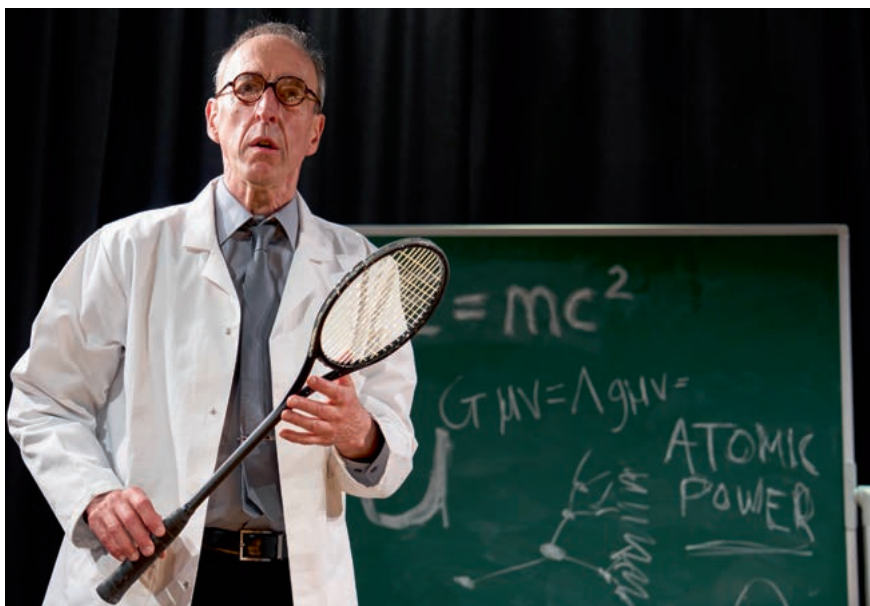
MAW has produced two commemorative mugs in honour of Bruce Kent - please see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter or check out our website for more details of how to order. - <https://abolishwar.net/product-category/mugs/>
The mugs are £20 a pair plus £4 postage cost and will enhance your morning coffee or afternoon tea.



Scottish CND's new publication - *Bruce Kent: Memories From Scotland* - is available to buy. With personal and political threads, this commemorative work weaves a tapestry of tales - across Scotland and all the way up to the Shetland Islands. Bruce's legacy of peace and active faith will inspire many a generation to come. The booklet is available, price £5, from <https://scottishcndshop.org/products/bruce-kent-memories-from-scotland>

And, hang on, who is that on the cover of the book, to the right of the picture? None other than MAW chair Tim Devereux holding the water bucket! The photo shows the 1973 CND Easter march from Glasgow to Faslane. Bruce conducted a service of "purging and exorcism" at the nuclear base. And Tim - you haven't changed a bit!





Join us to see how arts and culture promote peace and oppose war

A reminder that actor Michael Mears (pictured) will give the MAW Remembrance Lecture 2023. His talk - ***The role of the arts and culture in promoting peace and opposing war*** - will take place at 2pm on Saturday, 11 November, at the Oasis Hub, (1 Kennington Road, London SE1 7QP - the same venue as the MAW AGM). Entry is free and all are welcome on the day. MAW chair Tim Devereux says: "We are delighted that Michael - who is in the middle of a busy tour for his wonderful play *The Mistake* - is able to deliver the Remembrance Lecture for us and we urge all members to attend and to bring their friends.

"As well as the lecture this is an opportunity to catch up with friends in the activist world and make new connections." Make a day of it and come to the MAW AGM as well! (see page 1 for details). Michael's play *The Mistake* is set in 1942. On an abandoned squash court, a dazzling scientific experiment takes place that three years later will destroy a city and change the world. *The Mistake* explores the events surrounding the catastrophic "mistake" that launched our nuclear age. More details and all the tour dates can be seen here - <https://michaelmears.org/dates-for-your-diary/>

Nobel Ambitions: The International Peace Bureau (IPB) has announced its intention to nominate three exceptional organisations for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. The organisations are the Russian Movement of Conscientious Objectors, the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement and the Belarusian organisation *Our House*. The IPB says that their tireless efforts in advocating for the right to conscientious objection, plus a commitment to promoting human rights in their respective countries, make the three organisations deserving of recognition.

Bonn sparks plan for COP28 session on military emissions

Abolish War readers may remember that our colleague Deborah Burton of Tipping Point North South (TPNS) also represented MAW when she attended the annual UN Bonn Climate Change Conference in June with its focus on the 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.

Deborah was one of the speakers at a major side event addressing *The GST and Missing Military Emissions*. The room was fairly full and excellent feedback was received afterwards, mainly to the effect "we didn't know this issue was so big and so off the radar". The event can be viewed at <https://transformdefence.org/video-gallery/bonn-sb58/>

Media coverage included *Deutsche Welle*, Reuters and China Global Television Network.

During the four day conference Deborah met with various country delegates. She also met with the Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

The conversation included the potential for a Special IPCC report on Conflict Emissions. For such a proposal to be accepted would be a huge step forward.

Another extremely helpful conversation was with a former Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on how to further develop our submission to that committee on military emissions. Plans were made, in partnership with like-minded organisations, for side events on this issue to be held at COP28 in Dubai later this year, including one to be developed by Deborah on the links between military spending and emissions.

Hilary Evans & David Collins



Shoulder to shoulder: MAW's Vice-President Mererid Hopwood catching up with Valerie Flessati this summer at a MAW gathering.

Story of Argentinian conscript brought to an English audience

In 1974, MAW Committee member David Collins was stationed in the Royal Marines unit in the Falkland Islands. Last year he was contacted (via Veterans for Peace) by Ariel Martinelli and Adolfo Byugar, about the creation of an English translation of their co-written graphic novel in Spanish called *Tortas Fritas de Polenta*. The novel narrated the true story of Ariel's traumatic experiences fighting as an Argentinian conscript during the 1982 war in the South Atlantic. In subsequent months, David worked with Professor McGuirk of Nottingham University and Mac Macdonald of Splash Editions, to translate and republish the book in English with a full introduction by David.

Prof McGuirk comments: "In 20 years, rarely have I encountered a text more directly capturing the irresponsibility, the futility of exposing ill-equipped young conscripts to peril, trauma and the unrelenting proximity of violent death."

Last month, David introduced the book and read out a moving plea for peace from Ariel to an audience at the play *Falkland Sound* at the RSC in Stratford-upon-Avon.

New peaceful connections between British and Argentine veterans are currently in the making, to coincide with Ariel's visit to England next year.

You can buy the book here <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fried-Polenta-Scones-Argentine-Atlantic/dp/1912399377>

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 ☐

Peace Museum finds a new home

The Peace Museum in West Yorkshire is moving from Bradford centre to Salts Mill in Saltaire, thanks to a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for £245,651 to create new public exhibition and engagement spaces.

The plan is to reopen the museum in summer 2024.

A spokesman for the museum said: "This will be completely transformative for the museum and will allow us to engage with more visitors, both from Bradford and all over the world. We look forward to welcoming people to the new museum."

www.peacemuseum.org.uk/

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.

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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