



Above: The War Memorial in Puerto Madryn in Patagonia.

Right: Ariel Martinelli and David (centre) with the former Director of the Malvinas Museum, Edgardo Esteban, in Buenos Aires.

Join us for a visit to Argentina!

You will read elsewhere in *Abolish War* (See page 2) about David Collins' recent visit to Argentina as part of his research into the causes and lessons of the Falklands/Malvinas war of 1982. David will host a talk about his book project - and the highlights of his visit - on Friday, 7 March at 8pm, via Zoom (See the sign up details below).

Come and hear some of the views of Argentinians on the still unresolved sovereignty dispute with the UK in the South Atlantic and Antarctic, plus David's insights into the local culture.



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-visit-to-argentina-with-david-collins-tickets-1145952507799>

Changes in the MAW line-up

MAW remains active but there have been changes in the "top team."

Tim Devereux stepped down as Chair at the recent AGM and must be warmly thanked for all his efforts over many years.

For 2025, long-standing committee members Hilary Evans and Sally Reynolds will become co-conveners and, along with the members of the executive, will take joint responsibility for the work of MAW throughout 2025. Gill Hurle remains as Acting Treasurer and the arrangement will be reviewed at the AGM in November (date tbc).

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

Working for peace in 2025 - how can you help us?

MAW continues its important work as we enter a new year with many threats to peace around the world and against the backdrop of a rapidly changing global situation.

We - and many of our members - have plans to make our voices heard as the year unfolds.

And we take heart from a very successful conference - *Alternatives to War in a time of Global Crisis* - which we ran last autumn. Links to a recording of the conference and a transcript of the talks can be seen here - <https://abolishwar.net/Alternatives-to-war>

We urge all members of MAW to re-double their efforts as we fight for lasting change and a culture of peace. There are many ways you can try to influence policy - when was the last time you wrote to your MP or to your local newspaper to let them know how you think? We look forward to hearing from members in the coming months.

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Book research visit to Argentina on the causes of the 1982 war

In October last year, David Collins travelled to Argentina to continue his research into the causes of the war which followed the invasion of the Falklands/Malvinas Islands by Argentina nearly 43 years ago. He was hosted by his friend, Ariel Martinelli (then an 18-year-old conscript of the Argentine army) with whom David, a Spanish speaker, had previously co-authored an English translation of Ariel's 2014 graphic novel, *Fried Polenta Scones*, a compelling story of his experiences in that brutal war. Today an uneasy truce is maintained at the price of turning the islands into a military fortress. Experiencing the warmest of welcomes, especially at a joyful seaside barbecue while staying with Ariel's extended family in the resort of Mar Del Plata, David also conducted interviews and spent time with curators at the museum Museo Malvinas e Islas Del Atlantico Sur in Buenos Aires whose theme is the assertion of Argentinian claims regarding the sovereignty of the Colony, its territorial dependencies of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the Antarctic and vast areas of the South Atlantic together with its oil reserves and rich squid fishing grounds. Close by the museum is an old Naval Barracks in which many hundreds were tortured and killed for resistance to the brutal Military Juntas of the 60's and 70's - the faces of many are painted on a wall. Ariel explained that the barracks are kept as a reminder of the hard won democracy that the country enjoys to this day.

David Collins

David purchased certified Carbon Offsets for his 9,977 kg carbon flight emissions, to be used for the construction of Biogas Plants in Nepal.

Cycle challenge takes message of hope to Yorkshire and more

MAW's indefatigable cyclist Tim Devereux is taking on a new challenge for 2025! Tim says: "Last year, I cycled 313 miles from Leeds to Brighton over five days in aid of Medical Aid for Palestinians. This year, I intend to raise money for the same cause, but this time with a much bigger mileage - 11 times bigger to be exact!" Tim intends to cycle 3,431 miles, the distance from Leeds



to Gaza. He is plotting rides around Yorkshire, aiming for ten miles a day. He started on January 1 and has a planned finish date of December 10. Luckily, Tim has several bikes so he can ring the changes day to day depending on the route. He says: "In 2024, I rode about 1,800 miles, an average of

almost five miles/day, so 10 miles/day will definitely be a challenge. I'm riding to raise funds and awareness because the situation in Gaza, Palestine and the Middle East continues to be heartrendingly awful.

As an elderly man in Yorkshire, I don't have much influence. But, as the saying goes, 'Better to light one candle

than curse the darkness'. "I am still fit enough to cycle every day. So as I carry out the challenge, MAP will get funds to assist the victims of violence and I will have a year or so of cycling for peace."

Tim has a JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/tim-devereux-map-2025>

Book Review: *The Insecurity Trap - a Short Guide to Transformation*
Hawthorn Press 2024 - pp92, £11.99

MAW president Paul Rogers has condensed the wisdom of many years' work into a slim paperback crystallising, in his characteristically unflinching way, three key challenges: the climate crisis, an unjust economic system, and a reliance on military solutions to complex human problems. Is transformation possible and can it be done in time? Judith



Large's foreword and final chapter aim to prevent us feeling "overwhelmed, numbed or powerless" with some upbeat suggestions for taking action.

Authors: Paul Rogers, Emeritus professor of

Peace Studies at Bradford University and Judith Large, Senior Research Fellow at (CARC) University of Kent.

Sally Reynolds



Say no to the return of US nuclear weapons to UK soil

Currently there are over 40 local, national and international groups in the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace - including MAW - plus many individuals and the number is growing.

LAP is taking action to prevent the return of US nuclear weapons to RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, which is the largest US airbase in Europe.

The Air Force there maintains combat-ready planes pledged to NATO, which plans, conducts and supports air and space operations in Europe, parts of Asia and all of Africa (with the exception of Egypt). RAF Lakenheath - which might as well be called USAF Lakenheath - is a threat to all of us with its conventional weapons which have been deployed in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia, Libya, Syria, the Middle East and East Africa.

With the return of nuclear weapons, the situation will be far more dangerous.

In July of last year, a two-week Peace Camp was held at USAF Lakenheath.

Since then there have been monthly vigils plus countless public meetings, awareness-

raising events, letters written and actions taken.

We all need to unite and collectively challenge the idea that security and safety means the military and more weapons designed to maim and kill and terrorise.

This is not the way for the world to find peace and a sustainable future.

Another Peace Camp is being organised for this year, which will run from Monday, 14 April - Friday, 25 April, with many events, choirs, performances, actions, vigils and activities.

This will be followed by a Blockade of the Base on Saturday, 26 April. An International Peace Conference **Analysing and Resisting US Nuclear Expansion** will take place on Thursday, 24 April in a village close to the airbase during the Peace Camp, with a wide range of participants and speakers.

Everyone is welcome to sign up for the Peace Camp and Conference. Together we can make a change. For more information visit

www.lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk

Ali Lochhead

Can the lens of the arts help us see things differently?

MAW member Sue Dowell reflects on the role of the arts and culture in peacemaking

"When I hear the word culture I reach for my gun". Often tagged to Goebels, it comes from a line in Nazi playwright Hanns Johst's play *Schlageter*. The hero teases a chum who says he prefers the gun to any dialogue. In a time of culture wars, we surely need the latter.

Working with our culture - and other people's - is what I understand MAW was set up to do and why I want us to stay on the case at this difficult and dangerous time.

Let's look at what we are up against. In his 2014 book, *Catastrophe*, Max Hastings blames Austria and Germany for WW1. The publisher's blurb states: "While what followed was a vast tragedy, he argues passionately against the 'poets' view' that the war was not worth winning." This is an extraordinary provocation. Elsewhere, Hastings is far more nuanced on the horrors of the trenches. The poets were far more varied in their outlook also.

For a war to be "necessary" there has to be an enemy - preferably an evil one. This notion of a wicked enemy was soon lost. See Wilfred Owen's haunting poem, *Strange Meeting*. "I am the enemy you killed my friend...let us sleep now".

Putting aside modern sensibilities let us go back to Aeschylus' *The Persians*. First performed in 472 BC just eight years after the annihilation of the Persians it surely hit home with the audience as every able-bodied Athenian would have been called to military service and many would have first-hand memories of battle. Yet Aeschylus tells the story from the vantage point of the vanquished not the victors.

Closer to home, recent conflicts have made it troublingly easy to fall out with friends. We should not be dismayed by one another's perspectives but rather learn and grow from them.

Drama, literature and all the other arts can surely help.

When Welsh woman led the way in mobilising for peace

The 2024 MAW Remembrance Lecture was delivered by Professor Mererid Hopwood, one of our Vice-Presidents. The title was *Imagining Peace: Taking inspiration from the 1923-24 Welsh Women's Peace Petition* and it was a truly inspirational talk. In 1923, 390,296 women - representing 30% of the Welsh female population at the time - signed a peace petition calling on the United States to join and lead the League of Nations.

The campaign represented a bold movement to champion equality through elevating the voices of women to the international stage. A century later, volunteers and community groups in Wales have unearthed this inspiring tale of peace and women's empowerment.



The peace movement among the women of Wales grew from the ashes of the First World War. Organised through the Welsh League of Nations Union, the petition appealed to the women of America: "We long for the day when the affairs of Nations shall be subject no longer to the verdict of the sword. And we feel that the dawn

of the peace which shall endure would be hastened were it possible for America to take her place in the Council of the League of Nations." Their work has so many resonances for today! See the lecture at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgNSkZc7eus> Mererid has recently co-edited *The Appeal 1923-24: The Remarkable story of the Welsh*

Women's Peace Petition - available via

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/198672999-the-appeal-yr-ap-1>)

Tim Devereux

Book Review: *Monstrous Anger of the Guns - How the Global Arms Trade is ruining the world and what we can do about it*

Packed with sobering facts and produced by the Peace and Justice Project, this book has a compelling preface by Jeremy Corbyn and insightful contributions from the editors and others.

Stuart Parkinson spells out the crucial links between armed conflict and global warming, and its role in worsening the climate emergency.

Subsequent chapters expose the dire effects of militarism around the world, not least how Israel used its onslaught on Gaza and elsewhere as an advertisement for their latest range of weaponry. There are shocking descriptions of the arms industry actively - and all too effectively - campaigning to exert its influence.

Just two examples:

- Lobbying which led to the indefensible omission of the military's contribution to the official carbon emissions of different countries.

- The VP of Lockheed's Department of International Relations brazenly creating (and charring) an organisation called The US Committee to expand NATO!

What can we do?

We are given countless examples of inspiring and courageous resistance throughout the world and we can take heart from these. It can be hard to avoid the feeling that these amazing efforts can be seen as pinpricks in a gigantic evil machine...

The overall message of the book is clear:

- Persevere
- Having acknowledged the full extent of the evil.....
- Do not give up!

Heather Speight

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	Type of membership (please tick):
Address	Life £100 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual £15 <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged £5 <input type="checkbox"/>
..... Postcode	Household (2 or more at same address) £20 <input type="checkbox"/> Group or organisation £25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Tel no.	I enclose: Membership £ Donation £ Total £
Email	Please make cheque payable to Movement for the Abolition of War OR Please send me a standing order form <input type="checkbox"/>

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 2025; '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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