



# ABINGDON PEACE GROUP

Newsletter

February 2021

## A little bit of good news

Presidents Biden and Putin of Russia are reported to have avoided a renewed arms race by agreeing to extend the last remaining nuclear arms treaty between their countries, the 2010 New Start Treaty, which among other things limited the extent of missile deployment. Under the Trump presidency it would have expired on February 5.

**Notice: Our AGM will** take place as the final part of the 16 February meeting.

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Next meeting Tuesday, 16th February 2021 at 8pm on ZOOM

## So the Nuclear Ban Treaty is in force. What should the Government do next?

The TPNW has now been in force for more than a week and has already prevented any number of nuclear wars and accidents. While that is vacuous and flippant, we do think that the Treaty is a landmark event that gives us hope and, more importantly, provides a lever to influence the government to make the right moves towards nuclear disarmament.

This month's meeting is devoted to a kaleidoscopic discussion around this theme. We have invited a number of people to make short contributions and we think that what they have to say will stimulate us to develop our thoughts about what we should be saying to, and demanding from, governments.

As we finalise this newsletter, we haven't heard from all of them, but Bruce Kent, a key figure in CND for more than forty years; and John Gittings, the former Guardian journalist who has spoken to us several times in the last few years have both said they will take part. Likewise Peter Gloyns of the very active Salisbury CND and two representatives of our US sister group in Abingdon, VA, the Appalachian Peace Education Center, Linda Modica and Buckey Booney. And not least: what do *you* think the government should do?

PS: As you probably remember, Rebecca Johnson spoke to us in November about the TPNW and the q&a part of that meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoY7pNqfJPs&feature=youtu.be>. Possibly helpful to view it again before the meeting?

**Joining the meeting:** Either use the link below or look out for a message with the link on January 19<sup>th</sup>. If you don't receive it and would like to take part, simply email us using [abingdonpeace@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonpeace@gmail.com)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91315134101?pwd=RmxHLzBQaXlHYjFSRm5nREVzYjdSdz09>  
Meeting ID: 913 1513 4101 Passcode: 015836

And see piece on pages 6-7 *how to join a zoom meeting by telephone* – it's very doable and inexpensive.

## TPNW Update

There's quite a lot to report: here is some of it. The security thinktank, Chatham House, has published a paper on the Treaty, *NATO and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, by Steven Hill of the University of Leiden, with the sub-title *What does the entry into force of the TPNW* (continued on page 2)

*mean for NATO and its member states?* The following is taken from the summary, suggesting that the NATO establishment is being advised to think hard before continuing to pretend the TPNW doesn't really exist and hope it goes away. (And there's a message for us, too!)

"As part of a project on understanding NATO obligations and how they interact with nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament law and policy, this paper focuses on what the entry into force of the TPNW should mean for the 30 NATO member states (Allies). NATO has maintained a strong unified position in opposition to the TPNW. Several NATO partner countries have joined the treaty; others have decided not to join, often citing the potential effect on their security and ongoing cooperation with NATO as grounds for this decision.

The reality is that the TPNW will now be here to stay. Even if the prospect of a NATO Ally becoming a party to the TPNW may be currently assessed as unrealistic, a too intense focus on opposing the TPNW may obscure NATO's broader long-standing commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

Having set out the basic principles of NATO's nuclear policy, and its delicate balance between nuclear disarmament and deterrence, this paper asks a number of critical questions in the context of the entry into force of the TPNW. What are the core arguments that NATO Allies have advanced against the TPNW? Do these arguments hold weight in response to various criticisms that have been levelled them against? Can the TPNW create customary international law? If so, is the 'persistent objector' strategy adopted by NATO Allies an effective one? And what can NATO now do to strengthen its support for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation?

The paper concludes with recommendations as to how NATO can position itself on these issues in the future. It also suggests that TPNW supporters could do more to engage NATO and like-minded states on ways to advance the common goal of nuclear disarmament."

Read the paper at [https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/01/nato-and-treaty-prohibition-nuclear-weapons?utm\\_source=Chatham%20House&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=12128066\\_NATO%20and%20the%20Treaty%20on%20the%20Prohibition%20of%20Nuclear%20Weapons&dm\\_i=1S3M,77Y2Q,21SBDG,T9ECB,1](https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/01/nato-and-treaty-prohibition-nuclear-weapons?utm_source=Chatham%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12128066_NATO%20and%20the%20Treaty%20on%20the%20Prohibition%20of%20Nuclear%20Weapons&dm_i=1S3M,77Y2Q,21SBDG,T9ECB,1)

## Celebrating Good News – The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Is it a small step or a giant leap? It's both – and both were recognised in local, national and international events on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, when the Treaty came into force in International Law. The Treaty, passed overwhelmingly by the UN in 2017, bans the production, testing, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons.

Locally, this news was shared in the Market Place on Saturday morning (23<sup>rd</sup> Jan) by 9 or 10 Peace group members with banners and placards. The main big banner read **Nuclear weapons are now illegal** on one side and **UK should sign the UN Treaty** on the other. Banners were unfurled and bells rung also by APG members at home. Oxford CND members had banners and bells too – see the short video on the Oxford CND Facebook page. Nationally, there was, sadly, very little in the main media apart from an excellent article in the Guardian [www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/21/global-nuclear-weapons-ban-begins-without-the-worlds-nuclear-powers](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/21/global-nuclear-weapons-ban-begins-without-the-worlds-nuclear-powers). There was a letter in the Independent and the i newspaper by a Peace Group member - see below:

Finally, some good news

Though the main media was relatively silent, social media and peace organisations were extremely active nationally and internationally. ICAN, the Nobel Peace Prize - winning organisation, who have led the campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons, hosted an excellent on- line event which can still be watched. The link is on the [icanw.org](http://icanw.org) Facebook page. It was heartening that faith leaders, including Anglican bishops and the Catholic bishops of England, Wales and Scotland are urging the British government to sign the treaty.

Yes, the treaty is indeed a huge achievement but there is a long way to go. The CND website and the ICAN UK website ([www.icanw.org/unitedkingdom](http://www.icanw.org/unitedkingdom) - go to *Take Action*) gives ways that we can each support the campaign to shift the British Government's position. Take a moment to consider how far we have come and how important local grassroots action and campaigning is by going to Sea Green Singers – One Nuclear Bomb on Youtube. The Abingdon Peace Group banner and some members are there! (from Anne Dodd)



a heartening sight in a member's front garden on Jan 22

A letter in *The Independent* recently – from one of our members:

Dear Sir,

Apart from the vaccines, there is not a lot of good news around but the fact that, from this Friday, nuclear weapons become, for the first time, illegal under International Law, as chemical and biological weapons already are, is certainly a piece of good news. Yes, on Saturday there will still be thousands of such weapons, on hairtrigger alert, risking, by accident or intent, the incineration of millions and a nuclear winter for the whole planet but it is a first step. That is something to build on to make the world a safer place than it is now and can only be good news.

Yours sincerely,

### All Africa welcomes treaty

The All Africa Conference (found on the Vatican web site) welcomes the TPNW (Treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons) and expresses support. The very holding and use of nuclear weapons is immoral. The accidental or deliberate use would cause long lasting harm throughout the world. They create a system and structure which brings great suffering. The AAC says this is a time when we need hope. They note that greater pressure is imposed on women and indigenous peoples. Survivors of nuclear weapons, the habikusha, have shown what courage they have. We should have too.

So far 86 countries have signed up to the Treaty and 51 have ratified. An appeal is made to the whole global ecumenical community. We must not be discouraged by the slow pace but must be more determined to prepare for a better world.

The AAC was founded in Kampala, Uganda as an ecumenical Christian Association in 1963. It has 173 member churches present in 40 African churches representing 120 million Christians on the African continent. Its HQ is now in Nairobi, Kenya. (from Oonagh Godfrey)

### TPNW debated in the House of Lords

The Bishop of Coventry initiated a short debate on TPNW in the House of Lords on 21st January.

To read the transcript: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-01-21/debates/DCB6C09F-E381-42B2-AA59-7DCA1984D34C/ProhibitionOfNuclearWeapons>

To watch the debate: <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/27128668-fbb8-4383-9d3f-3e4d4dbd152f?in=12:31:10>

The Bishop of Coventry has followed up with this excellent piece in Church Times:

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/29-january/comment/opinion/nuclear-threat-calls-for-leadership>

### Our January meeting (on zoom): Chris Cole on *Drone Wars 2021*

Drone Wars UK does research to support advocacy. They do not claim to be neutral but to present a critical perspective on military drone technology and development. The last two years has seen an increase in large military-grade drones coming in to the UK, particularly in the time of Covid. Chris outlined several means by which the numbers and use of drones are set to change and expand:

1. Lowering the threshold for the use of force
2. Transferring the risk and cost of war from soldiers on to civilians.
3. Enabling video game warfare
4. Expanding the use of 'targeted killing', which used to be called assassination.
5. The myth of precision war Drone technology might be precise but that isn't as relevant as *how* drones are being used. They can be persistent and consistent, staying in an area for days and looking for identified targets. Strikes have caused thousands of civilian casualties.

Drones lower the threshold for the use of force: Because there are no 'boots on the ground' a country can engage in war with impunity, orchestrated from thousands of miles away. Deployment is

enshrouded in secrecy. Presented as clean and bloodless, there is a temptation for the increasingly common use of drones in addressing security problems. This can be and has been even beyond the bounds of International law.

Drone Wars UK started as a small organization in 2010 to research the use of military drones and campaign on their use. They set out to undertake education work on the use and impact of armed drones and remote war as well but more recently they have been able to share some of the educational aspects of visits, talks and university debate to the Killer Robots Campaign (<https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/>).

As well as transferring the risk and cost of war from soldiers on to civilians, there has also been a move from targeting terrorists to targeting State Officials. This was seen in the US drone strike in Iraq, targeting and killing Iranian General and IRGC (Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps) Commander Qasem Soleimani. The availability of drones has enabled this sort of targeted assassination and shows the unrestrained orders, without reference to physical or political impact or any sort of accountability.

US started manufacturing and using the R9X missile, sometimes known as the Ninja bomb. It has long steel blades that emerge just before contact, rather than explosives. Promoted as reducing the risk of killing of civilians R9X's are also used extensively in Syria, described by the US as drawing less attention than explosives, which is important where other large agencies are present, like the Russian army. They were originally designed to stop tanks but were found to be inappropriate. The outcome is that this type of drone can be used with very little oversight and encourages them to be used more often.

New military technology has been said to create many skilled jobs and to be developed to solve defence problems, but of course they don't solve the causes of war.

The UK continues to use drones in the war against ISIS, fifteen or so strikes a year, even though both Iraq and Syria have made statements that the war against ISIS is over. The UK is not inclined to agree that the war is at an end because there are no soldiers to bring home and the drones make it easy to maintain an active presence. One minister in the UK said there's no difference between wartime and non-wartime any more.

### Secrecy

Britain is also using drones elsewhere but is refusing to say where. Several FOI (Freedom of Information) requests have been made and it has been put to the House of Commons that there should be some oversight as to where these operations are taking place. They always get a bland response. It may be that they are not carrying out targeted strike operations but more surveillance. Their stock response is that lives are at stake so the MOD can't disclose the whereabouts of the drones. At the moment, they can be used in secrecy with no transparency.

A FOI (Freedom of Information) Tribunal is considering the exceptions to the FOI Act, these are Defence Interests and International Relations that are usually exempt but they are weighing that against 'Public Interest'. Transparency is recognized as being in the public interest but it is very unlikely that the case for the public interest will prevail. This is especially as the hearings are in secret and so heavily weighted in favour of the executive.

Many other countries as well as the UK and Israel are using drones. About 20 countries are using armed drones. Another 20 countries are very close behind. The US was not until recently exporting military-grade drones, for example the Predator drones, as their Missile Technology Control regime blocked them. Trump reinterpreted the regime and started export and tried to persuade other countries to as well. There is a new administration so there is a chance of a change.

There are lots of drones used in conflict. For example, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates are using them in Libya. They like using drones as they do not draw much attention. The narrative is put forward of wow, aren't drones great, but countries, particularly the UK, are poor in the reporting of civilian deaths or other failures and accidents. The UK maintained that thousands of strikes had been carried out with only one civilian killed, which was not true. The US is better at acknowledging civilian casualties but the UK and France wouldn't accept the US numbers. One good bit of news was that

the German government were asked to agree on a resolution for various armaments for drones, but the parties did not agree and it did not pass.

## The Future

The US has developed a bigger Predator drone, to be known as the 'Sky Guardian' and 'the Protector'. Able to carry more weapons, it can launch autonomously – which means take off and land, without a pilot nearby to launch it. It can be used in the UK for domestic purposes. How it got certified in the UK is the big problem. The Guardian Newspaper revealed last year that there was pressure put on the Civil Aviation Authority, the safety airspace the MOD (Ministry of Defence).

The Civil Aviation Authority has a rule of 60 days notice. The MOD asked to give only six days notice of the drones' arrival and eventually the authority agreed on two weeks. The fact that the MOD was allowed to put pressure on the authority is a worrying precedent.

As this is just the beginning, much more sophisticated technologies are coming down the line with no legislation in place. With regulatory authorities under pressure and the opening of British Airspace managed by a QUANGO rather than passing through parliament, it is hard to see what kind of control governments can implement. Drones that can fly 100s of miles beyond the operator's range of sight will soon be allowed which until now was prohibited for domestic drones. They will then be used by corporations and organizations for any number of purposes and be very difficult to account for. They could fall into the hands of criminals and there are many insurgent groups who already have the use of drones. These are the issues the organization is trying to address.

The authorities are more concerned that there won't be enough pilots to fly military drones as drone pilots have to witness the impact of their strikes. The MOD's medical experts described how there was significant stress on pilots and they suffered moral injury. This has led to a problem of retention of drone pilots. RAF pilots cost a lot to train and so they are very careful to recruit people who will not drop out. It was disclosed to Reprieve last year discovered through an FOI enquiry that private contractors are being brought in to fly the drones but it is said that they are not used for military purposes or strike operations, only to move drones from location to location. Australian pilots are also recruited.

This can also be understood as a gateway for the increased use of autonomous drones that take the human element away altogether.

While military drones can fly beyond the range of sight, the use of domestic drones is regulated and drones must be within sight and not flown within fifty metres of someone else. The implementation of these controls is supported by the fact that all drones must be registered and therefore the owners have some responsibility for them as they have registered their ownership. On the website of the Information Commissioners Office, there is a special page to visit if you're worried about drones and to report their appearance where they should not be.

While concentrating on armed drones, the possibility of them being armed with nuclear devices was considered. However there is little risk for at least ten years as drones are unsafe and often crash. The size of drones at the moment ranges from small quadcopters up to a similar size to a small private plane – such as the Protector. The companies are grappling with safety, as there are several reasons for drones' crash rate, including communications between operator and aircraft that fail, pilot error, technological error. A deadly crash into another airplane, or crash landing, is totally possible. The MOD and RAF would be responsible. It is believed that people will support the RAF and so they are, in a sense, being used as the public front for the expansion of public spending on drones and the opening of British airspace to increased drone use.

None of the safety or the increased surveillance and privacy factors are being openly debated. Instead, drones are presented as an unequivocally good development. This is also economically because Price Waterhouse and Cooper informed the government that the drone industry will make big money which the government have accepted, without looking at other implications.

When drones were used to travel along borders and sent out to monitor refugees in boats attempting to cross the channel, it was asked if they were 'for show'. The point of them is partly for a 'show of force' in the hope that drones will scare people off. They are also used for surveillance. It would be

unethical to use weapons against refugees but their operations are mainly secret so any actions could remain unreported in the news.

There is more of a culture of openness and transparency in the US, where FOI is much stronger than here. On the other hand, normalizing the use of force is also more accepted in the US.

Drone Wars UK has asked for a White Paper to be completed.

There was concern about Biden's inauguration being a drone target. Because the drone technology is much cheaper, terrorist groups may well have the capacity to attempt an assassination. For example, the Houthi rebels in Yemen were able to use a drone six to eight feet long to fly hundreds of miles and attack an oil refinery in Saudi, doing some damage.

The US base at Croughton does not produce pilots for drones as it is a communications and analysis centre connected directly to the US base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa and other bases, through satellite and fibre optic networks. BT was given the contract for providing the high speed connection from Croughton to where US drones take off for strikes in Yemen and Somalia.

Another concern was that Ben Wallace, UK defence secretary, was particularly impressed with Turkish drones that do not use satellite communication, now in constant use.

The UK's Integrated Security and Defence review should be released next month. It is thought, though, that the UK are interested in developing UK rather than buying Turkish technology even though they are cheaper than Israeli drones. Turkish drones are said to be fighting the Armenian war.

At the moment, our armed drones are bought from the US. However, the UK has been investing in future drones. Predator and Protector drones are pilot controlled but Teranis were developed (and allegedly shelved) by BA Systems, who are now testing an autonomous drone called Tempest.

The nuclear research being funded by AWE at Oxford University was raised. It was hoped that the Disarm Oxford group would approach the universities and find out what they are researching and raise awareness about the reality. Simultaneous to our talk (on the 19<sup>th</sup> January), there was a launch of a universities campaign taking place, to let people know what is happening with drones.

The Watchkeeper UAV (Unmanned aerial vehicle) was developed in the UK. It was very expensive and so many of the drones had to be put in permanent storage that NATO used it as an example of how not to develop something.

Drone pilots are trained at RAF Waddington and Avisight in Las Vegas, Nevada for stationing in Kuwait for operations. However, it is clear that drones are a gateway to autonomous weapons.

As the meeting came to a close, Chris said he hoped he had not depressed us too much, to which we said how amazed at how much Drone Wars UK does and achieves. He commended us on keeping going over the years.

*The meeting decided to give £100 to support the work of Drone Wars UK, using the Go Fund Me page on the Drone Wars website. (NB The revamped website, [www.dronewars.net](http://www.dronewars.net), is amazing and shares information on every aspect of the development and use of drones).*

*(Report by Frances Micklem, to whom go our very warm thanks).*

## **Taking part in our meetings without a computer**

If you or someone you know would like to join us in our zoom meetings, we have discovered that it is possible to do so using your telephone! You can do so if your phone has the hash (#) and the star (\*) symbols. You will need the Meeting ID number and the Passcode (password). Then:

- 1) A few minutes before the meeting is meant to begin, phone Zoom on any of these numbers: 0203 901 7895, 0131 460 1196, 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240
- 2) Listen: you will be asked to enter the Meeting ID, followed by the hash key: #.
- 3) If you are asked for your Participant ID number, just hit hash: #
- 4) Next, follow the instructions and enter the meeting's Passcode, followed by hash: #
- 5) You should now be able to hear the meeting, and speak to the meeting, and they will be able to hear you.

6) When the meeting starts, you will be muted by the host, so that people can't hear noises at your end. If you want to speak dial \*6 (star 6) to unmute yourself and again \*6 to mute yourself after speaking.

7) If you want to 'raise your hand' (maybe to show you want to speak), dial \*9 (star 9) to raise your hand – and then \*9 again after speaking to lower it.

PS if you would like a paper copy of these instructions phone Sally on 01235 526265 and ask for a copy to be sent to you. Finally, calls cost the same as dialling an 020 number (free if you have unlimited minutes on your phone).

## **Wellbeing for Future Generations a joint webinar by Youth & Student CND and the Big Issue Foundation.**

This engaging online seminar let us hear the voices of some young people, which is a joy in itself. Priya Shivaram introduced the "Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill", a Private Members bill requiring every decision, by local or national government, to consider the likely effects on future generations. The youth CND spokesperson, Ellie Kinney, explained how that would rule out nuclear weapons! The cross-party campaign is powered by *The Big Issue* and led by its founder, Lord Bird MBE, with Caroline Lucas. Their website [Today For Tomorrow](#) tells more.

Wales already has such a law, the first country in the world with legislation to protect future generations. We heard from the impressive Jane Davidson, [www.janedavidson.wales](http://www.janedavidson.wales), who has just published a book "#FutureGen" which tells the story of how it got to be law, and how useful it is.

We need to co-operate more with the environmental movement, so maybe this would be a good place to start? (from Sally Reynolds)

## **News from the PPU (Peace Pledge Union)**

'This week has brought us another shocking example of everyday militarism, the news that the arms company BAE Systems are producing fairy tale-based videos for children:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/arms-companies-fairy-tale-stories-bae-b1780982.html>

Everyday militarism is all around us but it can seem harder than usual to campaign against it during the Covid pandemic. That's why we're inviting PPU members and allies to join us at 6.30pm on Thursday 4th March for an online event: Challenging Militarism in a Pandemic.'

## **100 seconds to midnight**

The Doomsday Clock - which is set every year by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists – is an indicator of the existential crises facing the world. It's just been announced that the 'time' remains 100 seconds to midnight, the closest ever. In this month's *Campaign* magazine we look at what this actually means and how the situation can improve. We also have excellent news to share about the launch of a Peace Academy in Wales.

To read more: [https://cnduk.org/resource\\_type/magazine/](https://cnduk.org/resource_type/magazine/)

## **Diary**

*Tue 9 & Wed 10 Feb:* [Protest: Stories of Resistance](#) with Christopher Eccleston, Martyn Bedford and David Waddington on Feb 9; and Maxine Peake on Feb 10. Housmans Bookshop and Comma Press hosting two online events with renowned British actors Christopher Eccleston and Maxine Peake reading from protest-inspired stories published in Comma's History-into-Fiction series, *Protest*. Both readings will be followed by a conversation between authors and historians discussing the events depicted in the stories read by Christopher and Maxine. Christopher will be reading 'Withen' by Martyn Bedford, a story about the Battle of Orgreave, during the 1984-85 miners' strike. The reading will be followed by a discussion with author Martyn Bedford and academic David Waddington who has published widely on Britain's mining communities.

Both events start at 7pm. Cost is given as £1 - £12.99, the latter including a book. You must book in advance – details at <https://tinyurl.com/yyejkn6h>

*Fri Feb 19: Introduction to Degrowth - with Vincent Liegey, Anitra Nelson and Derek Wall online at Housmans providing an accessible introduction to the degrowth movement. <https://tinyurl.com/y3jgyjes>*

*Mon Feb 22: The Palestinian Health Sector Before and During the Covid 19 Crisis – With Colin Green. Professor Green is a distinguished surgeon and academic who has devoted many years to supporting the development of medical services in Palestine. He has been closely involved in the West Bank and Gaza in education and training of health professionals since 1985, founder and director of International Medical Education Trust [www.imet2000.org](http://www.imet2000.org). Please Register here: <http://bit.ly/ColinGreenTalk> .Hereford Palestine Solidarity Campaign (herefordpsc@gmail.com). At 7.30 pm.*

*Wed Feb 24: Film -The Atom: A Love Affair, followed by a Q&A with the director, at 7pm.Join CND and Tenner Films for a film screening of 'The Atom: A Love Affair', arranged especially for CND supporters. Following the screening, we'll be joined by the film's producer and director Vicki Lesley for a Q&A session hosted by CND General Secretary Kate Hudson. Documentary delving deep into the past of the world's most controversial energy source – nuclear. It charts the West's rollercoaster love-hate relationship with nuclear power over the past 75 years. Further information about booking etc:<https://watch.eventive.org/theatom/play/6009b55571573d00a9ab1ce5>*

*Thu Feb 25: Zero Carbon - Why NOT Nuclear? Dr Andy Stirling and Dr Phil Johnstone, two key researchers from Sussex University speak about their evidence that nuclear power is obsolete in achieving zero-carbon, but exists now purely to underpin military use. The webinar will be chaired by Nikki Clark, from Stop Hinkley campaign. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions - please submit in advance with your name to Caroline Lanyon: [c.lanyon@btinternet.com](mailto:c.lanyon@btinternet.com) (subject 'Zero Carbon- Why Not Nuclear'). To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7BmgQv5jRWy2CHcET3gcog](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7BmgQv5jRWy2CHcET3gcog) .*

*Thu Mar 4: Challenging Militarism in a Pandemic online event for PPU members and allies to join us, at 6.30pm. See page 7 above. Details closer to the time. [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk). Phone: 020 7424 9444 [mail@ppu.org.uk](mailto:mail@ppu.org.uk)*

***Comments, corrections, contributions etc to this newsletter are very welcome.***

*Abingdon Peace Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month except August. At present our meetings are taking place online. All who are interested in peace and campaigning for it are welcome to take part. The Group has no party political affiliations.*

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